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PAR AURORAL STUDY. VOLUME IV. IONOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION OF SATE--ETC(U)

SEP 76 M J MITCHELL, J L BROWN

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PAR AURORAL STUDY
VOLUME IV. IONOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION
OF SATELLITE TRACKS DURING AURORA

M AND S COMPUTING, INCORPORATED
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

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18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES This is one of six volumes of reports that present the aurora borealis data collected by a multi-megawatt phased array radar. The radar has excellent sensitivity and range resolution affording very precise aurora detail.		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Aurora Borealis, phased array radar, radar/aurora efforts, back scattering characteristics, radar reflectivity, geomagnetic field effects, ionospheric scintillation.		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) This report describes data collected in connection with research of aurora borealis effects on the performance of phased array radar. In particular, the effects and deviations of ionospheric scintillations are discussed.		

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PREFACE

This report describes the track portion of the aurora borealis research effort being performed by M&S Computing, Inc., for the Army Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command in Huntsville, Alabama. The primary objective of the study is to advance the understanding of the auroral phenomenon, especially of its interactions with radar. The primary data gathering instrument is the Safeguard Perimeter Acquisition Radar in North Dakota. This radar has been used to collect large quantities of high resolution auroral backscatter data with the simultaneous tracking of a number of selected satellites.

The data presented here results from an analysis of ionospheric scintillation effects on satellites tracked during periods of intense auroral activity. This study was performed by M&S Computing, Inc., under Contract No. DASG60-74-C-0026 for the Army Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command in Huntsville, Alabama. PAR Auroral Study, Volume IV, dated September 1, 1976, constitutes M&S Computing's Report No. 76-0042.

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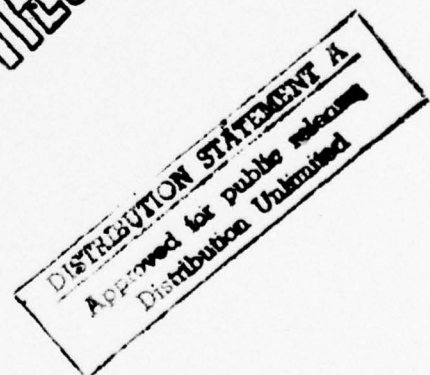
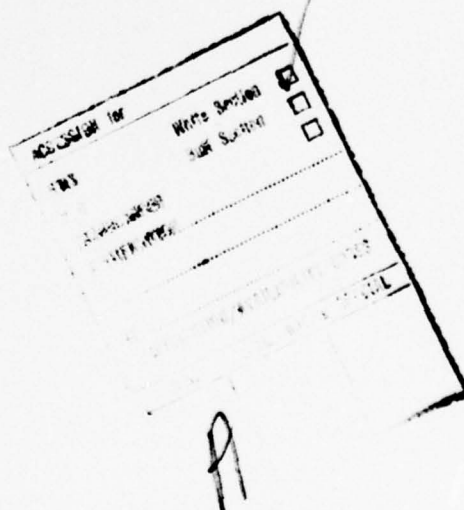


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1. INTRODUCTION

As a part of the Safeguard Perimeter Acquisition Radar (PAR) Auroral Experiment, a number of satellites were tracked concurrently with the collection of auroral backscatter data. This data was taken because previous work had indicated the possibility of significant scintillation effects at the PAR frequency during periods of auroral activity. These effects appear as rapid fluctuations in signal power and apparent target position and are thought to be caused by irregularities in the ionospheric F region. Certain of these characteristics are known to be related to the magnetic disturbances associated with auroral activity. Scintillation is of great concern in radar systems because it alters the statistical properties of the target. These alterations take the form of changes in the mean and standard deviation of the target's instantaneous Radar Cross Section (RCS) and of uncertainties about the angular position of the target. The perturbations to the RCS cause inaccurate estimates of the target's optical size and shape. This can increase the difficulty of target discrimination to the point of impossibility. Angular scintillations can reduce the resolution between close objects since there can be overlap in the apparent locations of the two objects. Furthermore it can perturb the track prediction algorithms and reduce the mean amplitude of the return by increasing the chances of a detection at a low gain point of the beam. In extreme cases this may even result in a Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) below the system threshold or a total miss, either of which would be treated as a missed pulse and result in degradation of system performance. The effects of ionospheric scintillation are most significant to radars such as the PAR which must perform critical target discriminating functions.

This report is Volume IV of the PAR Auroral Study. Volumes I, II, and III are concerned primarily with the analysis of auroral backscatter. Volume V will contain studies of related subjects and phenomena.

This volume is presented in six sections. Section 1 provides an overview and a brief summary of the morphology of ionospheric scintillation. It also will provide an introduction to related literature. Section 2 describes the experiment and the techniques used in the analysis. Section 3 presents the results of that analysis, and Section 4 contains a discussion of the data of Section 3. Section 5 contains the concluding remarks, and Section 6 lists the references utilized in this study. In addition to these five sections, an appendix is included which contains composite plots of azimuth, elevation, range, and amplitude versus elapsed time in track for those tracks not discussed elsewhere in the report.

1.1 General Background

Scintillation is the term used to describe rapid random changes in measured target signal power and angular position. It also refers in some instances to slower fading effects. For the purposes of this report, the terms amplitude scintillation, angle scintillation, and fading will be used to refer to rapid fluctuations in signal strength, rapid fluctuations in apparent angular position, and slow variations in signal strength, respectively.

Detailed surveys of ionospheric scintillation effects are available in the literature (References 2, 13, 16, and 18), and for those desiring further information Jones' Index (Reference 15) should prove useful. Here we shall present only a brief overview of the general morphology and some details of the UHF Scintillation effects.

Scintillation is caused by irregularities in the ionospheric electron density. These irregularities usually range in height from 200 to 600 km and occur predominantly in the ionospheric F-layer at heights from 225 to 400 km (see References 4 and 5). Irregularities due to sporadic E and small Travelling Ionospheric Disturbances (TID's) in the F-layer (References 9 and 10) also produce scintillations but are usually less frequent and not very severe. During scintillation, signal power may be enhanced by 6 to 8 dB and decreased to the noise level during the course of the track.

The degree of amplitude scintillation also has a frequency dependence (Reference 12). At lower frequencies amplitude scintillation decreases as a function of λ but at higher frequencies occurs more as a function of λ^2 . For some special geometries, however, the scintillations may increase as λ decreases (Reference 25). This is referred to as "inversion."

The scale size of the irregularities is dependent on frequency but is generally on the order of 1 kilometer in the smallest (transverse) dimension (References 7 and 14). They are generally grouped in a large-scale, field-aligned structure and demonstrate an aspect sensitivity similar to that of radar aurora (References 11 and 21).

The geographic morphology of ionospheric scintillations limits them to three regions, an equatorial region and two polar regions. Scintillation in the equatorial region extends from -15° to $+15^\circ$ latitude and scintillation occurs mainly at night between 2100 and 2400 hours local time. The fading rate for equatorial scintillations is generally two to ten times slower than that in the polar regions. Equatorial scintillation also exhibits a strong seasonal dependence with maxima at the equinoxes and minima at the solstices. The two polar regions, arctic and antarctic, each form a band structure with a high and low latitude boundary. Scintillations above the high latitude boundary in the polar cap region are generally characterized by sudden and short-lived periods of high scintillation. Within the boundaries, in the irregularity region, the scintillations are usually less severe but of longer duration and uniformity. The lower scintillation boundary is defined as the latitude at which the mean scintillation index at 40 MHz is 50%. It is not always a sharp boundary.

Although the irregularity region has a field-aligned structure and moves toward the equator during periods of high magnetic activity (Reference 2), in a fashion similar to the auroral oval, it is considerably offset from the auroral oval. At night the Auroral oval generally lies in the region from 63° invariant

latitude to 71° invariant latitude. This puts it entirely within the irregularity region which, at midnight, usually extends from 57° to 77° (References 6, 9, 22, 23, 24, and 25).

1.2 Related Literature

Several studies have been conducted in the UHF band; Evans (Reference 8); Little, Reid, Stiltner, and Merritt (Reference 17); Millman and Anderson (Reference 19); Millman and Moceyunas (Reference 20); Porcello and Hughes (Reference 22); and Unger, Hardin, and Horan (Reference 27). Of these, the study conducted by Evans is most extensive and complete.

Evans collected data at 400 MHz from 2376 beacon satellites. His results confirm the existence of a scintillation boundary effect for 400 MHz scintillations and places this boundary near 46° geographic latitude. He also reports an increased probability of scintillation as invariant latitude increases and finds considerable correlation between the occurrence of auroral clutter and scintillation. Figure 1-1 depicts the distribution in invariant latitude of 3-second tracking intervals exhibiting values exceeding three levels of scintillation indexes (top) and traverse-angle scintillation (bottom). It provides a summary of the probabilities of occurrence for scintillation as observed by Evans. His index S is defined by the equation:

$$S^2 = \frac{\langle A^4 \rangle - \langle A^2 \rangle^2}{\langle A^2 \rangle^2} \quad (1)$$

This index does not translate easily into that used in this and other studies. However, values of $S < .4$ are relatively insignificant. In the above equation the symbols $\langle \rangle$ denote the ensemble average.

SCINTILLATION INDEX PROBABILITIES

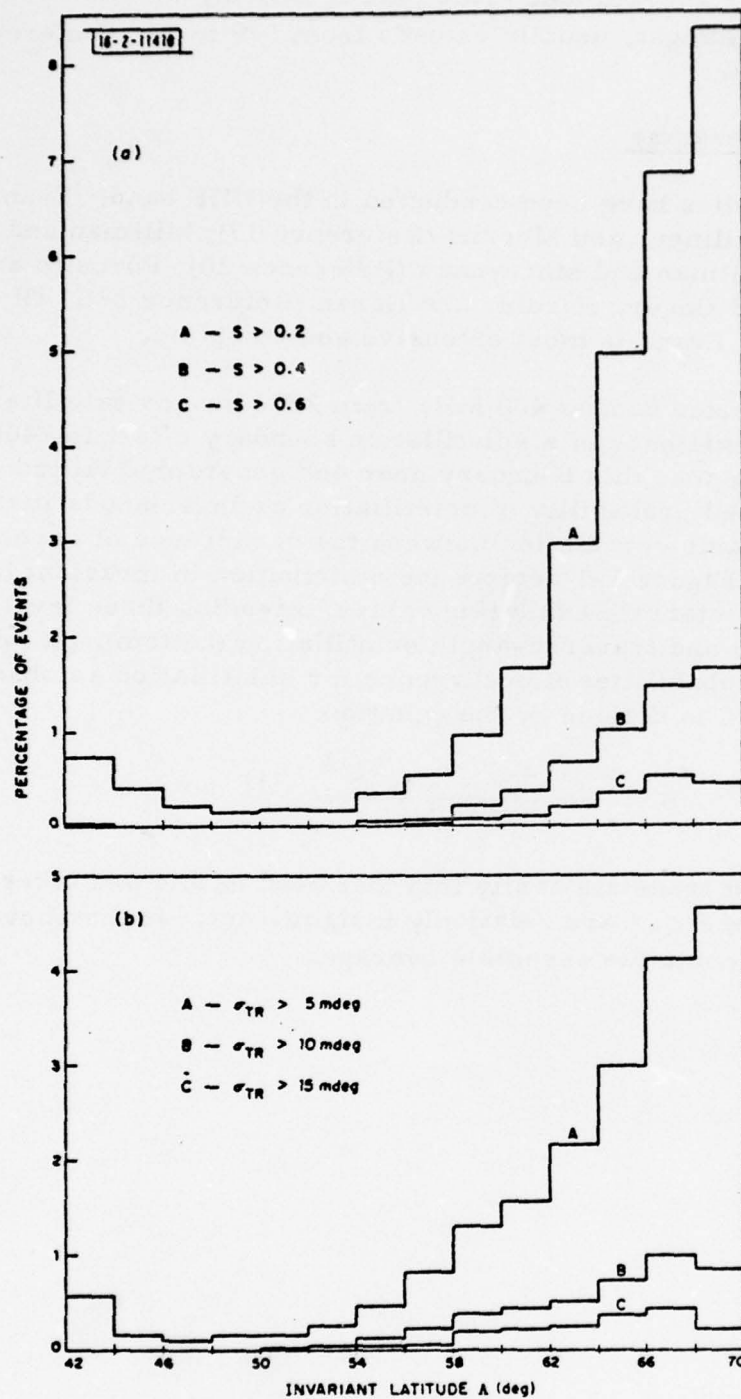


Figure 1-1

2. THE EXPERIMENT AND ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES

The satellite track data was collected with the SAFEGUARD PAR as a part of the larger Auroral data gathering mission. The PAR, located near Cavalier, North Dakota, is a pulse-compression (chirp) radar, transmitting a circularly polarized wave from a phase-steered, phased-array antenna and operating in the UHF band near 450 MHz. The PAR has a beam width of less than 1.5° , a range resolution of better than 1.5 km, and range measurement granularity of under 50 feet. High transmit power and low noise levels combine to allow very long range coverage (well over 2000 km) and high sensitivity. The PAR is computer controlled and is equipped with high performance data processing and recording equipment. The selected satellites were acquired and tracked using a special-search-special-track capability. Tracking was done at a data rate of approximately five pulses per second. Satellite track data was gathered simultaneously with auroral backscatter on four separate occasions in 1975 and 1976, September 17-18, September 26-27, March 10-11, and March 26-27. In addition to the tracks in the presence of aurora, several tracks were obtained when the aurora was absent. Over the course of the experiment 39 tracks were made for a total of 10,292 seconds of data. Of these, 17 were spherical satellites and yielded 3,958 seconds of data, and 22 were non-spherical transit satellites yielding a total of 6,334 seconds of data. The quiet track data consisted of eight tracks for a total of 1,175 seconds of data. Of these, two were of non-spherical transit satellites with 251 seconds of data. The objects tracked are tabulated in Table 2-1. All data was recorded on magnetic tape and transferred to M&S Computing in Huntsville for reduction and analysis.

The primary concern of the satellite track study was ionospheric scintillation. The method chosen to study the scintillation effects was to analyze the point-by-point fluctuations. From a sliding window consisting of five consecutive replies, indices of amplitude and angular scintillation are generated using the following equations:

$$SI_p = \frac{S_{\max} - S_{\min}}{S_{\max} + S_{\min}}, \text{ and} \quad (2)$$

$$P_\Theta = \Theta_{\max} - \Theta_{\min}, \quad (3)$$

where S_{\max} and S_{\min} are the maximum and minimum replies in watts selected from the five points in the window, and Θ_{\max} and Θ_{\min} are the maximum and minimum angle in degrees of either azimuth or elevation. To emphasize the different mathematical form of the equations, the amplitude index will be referred to as a scintillation index and the angle indices as perturbation indices. Plots of these indices versus elapsed time are then generated and examined for scintillation effects. In addition to the above indices, a composite plot showing curves of azimuth, elevation, range, and raw reply power is generated for each track.

SATELLITE CHARACTERISTICS

OBJECT	TYPE		NUMBER OF TRACKS
0902	Sphere	14 inches diameter	3
1512	Sphere	14 inches diameter	2
1520	Sphere	14 inches diameter	1
2754	Transit		4
2807	Transit		4
2826	Sphere	20 inches diameter	1
2909	Sphere	18 inches diameter	1
2965	Transit		4
3133	Transit		1
4507	Transit		3
4957	Sphere	.26m Aluminum	5
4958	Sphere	.26m Aluminum	3
4963	Transit		2
5398	Sphere	1m ² Optical Area	1
6909	Transit		4

Table 2-1

In generating the angular scintillation plots, baseline removal was necessary and was accomplished using Kalman smoothed trajectory data supplied by the PAR data processing programs. The Kalman smoothed data was used as a linear predictor of the satellite's position. This method proved adequate in the majority of cases. Ground track data was also generated for each satellite and hand-plotted on time-correlated, top-down plots of auroral backscatter to allow comparison of backscatter location and the indices.

For the first two groups of tracks ephemeris data was available and was used to confirm that the proper object was acquired. This was not possible for Groups three and four, and a possibility of error does exist.

3. RESULTS

The available data is summarized in the following tables. Tables 3-1 and 3-2 present the results for satellites tracked in the aurorally active environment, differentiating between spheres and transits, respectively. Table 3-3 presents the data for the quiet non-auroral tracks. Each track is identified by object number, track number, and duration. The tracks are numbered according to arbitrary tape format order, and missing numbers indicate redundant track data. As a measure of amplitude scintillation the third peak of the index is given, rounded to the nearest tenth. For the angle perturbation indices the maximum, rounded to the nearest tenth of a degree, is given. To provide a rough measure of the relative magnetic activity, the mean number of auroral backscatter replies per scan (29 seconds) is also given.

As can be readily seen from Table 3-1, the transit satellites provide uniformly high indices. This is due to the natural variations in their cross section as their aspect angle varies. Some of these are probably further perturbed by ionospheric scintillations; however, separation of the aspect and ionospheric effects is not possible with the amount of data available. For this reason the transit satellites will not be considered in the following discussion.

Of the spheres only one satellite track, 2/25, from Groups one and two shows strong and distinct scintillation. Track 2/37 shows a deep fade which may be due to ionospheric irregularities. All of the spheres from Group four show very high scintillation. As mentioned in Section 2, we are unfortunately unable to confirm that the correct object was tracked.

Composite plots for the bulk of the satellites are included in the Appendix. Those of special interest will be included elsewhere.

TRACK SUMMARY FOR SPHERICAL SATELLITES
IN AN AURORAL ENVIRONMENT

			Rounded Off to Nearest .1			
Track No.	Object	Time In Track Sec.	Third Maximum SIp	Maximum PIAZ	Maximum PIEL	Mean # Auroral Replies
1/02	2826-SS	406	.4	.2	.1	5974
1/04	0902-SS	354	.5	.7	.8	6527
1/12	0902-SS	153	.7	.6	.4	5740
1/24	4957-SS	232	.2	.2	.1	117
1/32	4963-SS	282	.3	.5	.2	793
1/40	4958-SS	190	.3	.2	.1	973
1/44	4957-SS	117	.3	.3	.2	2230
1/48	5398-SS	292	.4	.1	.1	3721
1/60	1512-SS	220	.4	.5	.3	4573
1/64	1520-SS	220	.5	.5	.5	5531
2/14	4963-SS	225	.3	.2	.1	1066
2/18	4957-SS	277	.3	.4	.3	6611
2/25	0902-SS	220	.9	.5	.4	6178
2/37	1512-SS	327	.5	.4	.3	6510
2/40	4958-SS	153	.3	.8	.3	8898
4/06	4957-SS	241	.6	.4	.3	8950
4/10	4958-SS	339	1.0	1.0	1.4	16318
4/14	4957-SS	195	1.0	1.6	1.6	34545
4/26	2909-SS	303	1.0	1.2	1.5	33831

Table 3-1

TRACK SUMMARY FOR TRANSIT SATELLITES
IN AN AURORAL ENVIRONMENT

			Rounded Off to Nearest . 1			
Track No.	Object	Time In Track Sec.	Third Maximum SIp	Maximum PIAZ	Maximum PIEL	Mean # Auroral Replies
1/08	3133-TP	327	1.0	.4	.7	10673
1/16	6909-TP	284	.9	.3	.3	1407
1/20	2807-TP	323	.9	.7	1.0	240
1/28	2965-TP	348	.7	.3	.3	363
1/36	2807-TP	251	1.0	.5	.9	1167
1/52	2965-TP	174	.5	.4	.3	3568
1/56	2754-TP	344	1.0	.5	.5	6988
1/68	2754-TP	205	.9	.9	.8	4443
1/72	4507-TP	354	.9	.6	.2	280
2/02	6909-TP	333	.7	.3	.2	12736
2/06	2807-TP	349	1.0	.9	.7	16684
2/10	6909-TP	210	.7	.4	.3	3636
2/22	2754-TP	292	.6	.3	.9	10450
2/29	2754-TP	297	.7	.2	.2	17000
2/33	2965-TP	349	.6	.2	.1	3235
2/43	4507-TP	221	.9	1.5	1.2	20313
3/02	2807-TP	330	.9	1.6	1.0	17955
4/02	6909-TP	231	1.0	1.4	1.0	8147
4/18	2965-TP	200	1.0	1.9	1.0	46943
4/30	4507-TP	124	1.0	.7	.6	65106

Table 3-2

TRACK SUMMARY FOR SATELLITES IN A NON-AURORAL
(QUIET) ENVIRONMENT

			Rounded Off to Nearest .1		
Track No.	Object	Elapsed Time Sec.	Third Maximum SIp	Maximum PIAZ	Maximum PIEL
Q/01	2907-SS	154	.4	.2	.1
Q/06	2907-SS	154	.5	.3	.2
Q/08	2909-SS	154	.5	.3	.2
Q/10	4957-SS	154	.3	.2	.2
Q/13	4957-SS	154	.4	.2	.2
Q/20	2909-SS	154	.5	.5	.4
Q/23	6909-TP	154	1.0	.8	.6
Q/25	6909-TP	97	1.0	.07	.2

Table 3-3

4. DISCUSSION

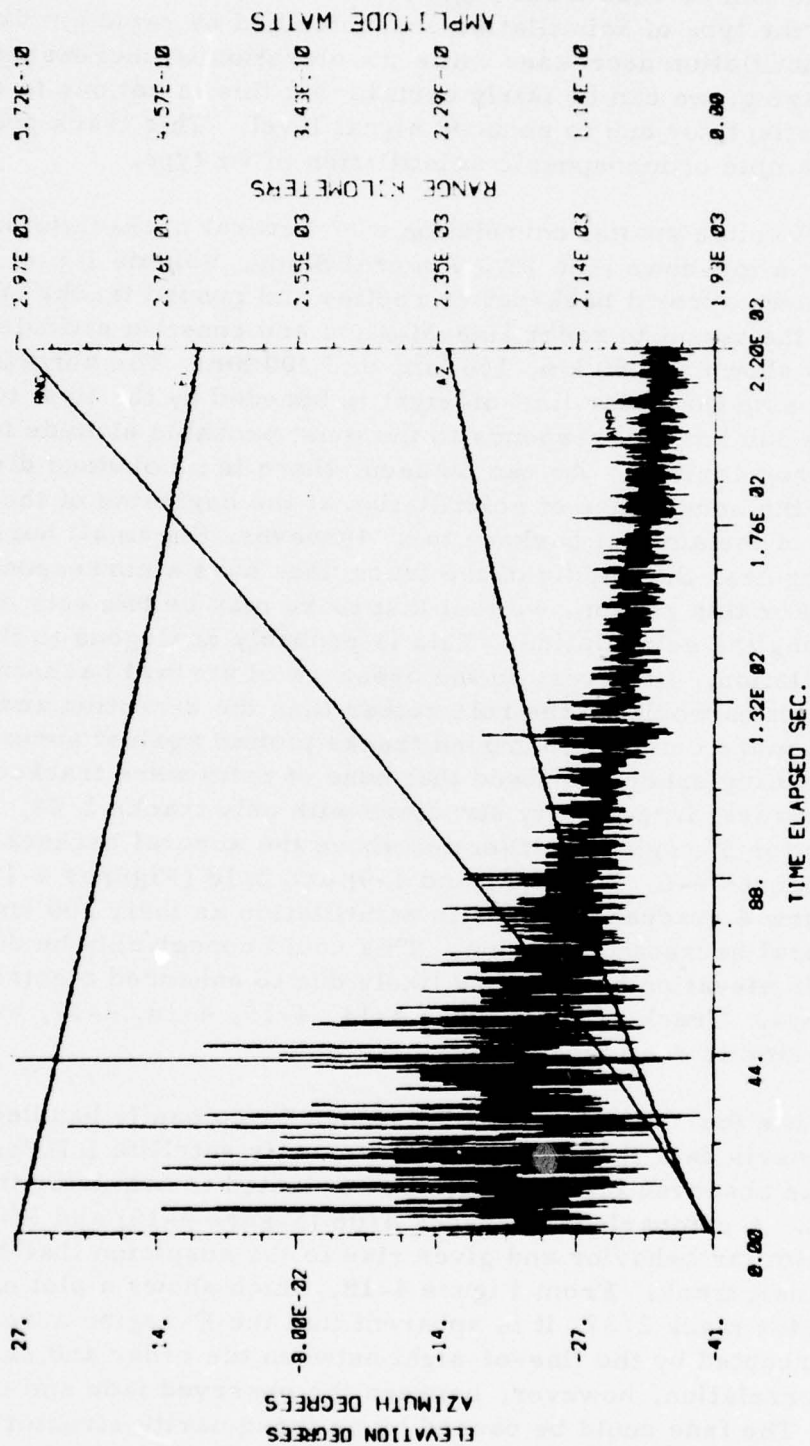
As can be seen from Figures 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, and 4-4, track 2/25 displays the type of scintillation characterized by rapid amplitude fluctuations. Since scintillation decreases while the elevation is decreasing and the range is increasing, we can be fairly certain that this is not due to standard atmospheric effects or due to reduced signal level. This track provides a very clear example of ionospheric scintillation of its type.

Possible spatial correlation with auroral backscattering regions is shown by a top-down (see PAR Auroral Study, Volume I) plot in Figure 4-5 which shows auroral backscatter replies and ground tracks of the intercept between the target to radar line-of-sight and constant altitude shells. The altitudes shown are 80 km, 150 km, and 300 km. The auroral backscatter which lies on the radar line-of-sight is bounded by the first two curves. The third, at 300 km, corresponds to the most probable altitude for the scintillation irregularities. As can be seen, there is no obvious direct correlation between the occurrence of scintillation at the beginning of the track and the location of the auroral backscatter. However, the small burst of scintillation occurring near the middle of the track does have a corresponding backscatter reply. For this reason, we feel that there may be two sets of irregularities influencing the scintillation. This is probably analogous to the case of sporadic-E scintillation. However, in the presence of auroral backscatter, E-region irregularities would be the rule rather than the exception and scintillation would be much more common. Ground tracks plotted against auroral backscatter for the remaining spheres showed that none of them were tracked through the E-region auroral irregularity structure with only tracks 1/04, 2/18, and 2/37 allowing for F-region intersection above the auroral backscatter region. Tracks 1/04 (Figures 4-6, 4-7, 4-8, and 4-9) and 2/18 (Figures 4-10, 4-11, 4-12, and 4-13) show a gradual increase in scintillation as their 300 km intercept crosses the auroral backscatter region. This could conceivably be due to normal decrease in elevation but is more likely due to enhanced electron densities above the aurora. Track 2/37 (Figures 4-14, 4-15, 4-16, 4-17, and 4-18) shows a more dramatic deep fade effect.

The fourth group of tracks cannot be so easily handled. Due to the lack of ephemeris data it is not possible to verify satellite I.D.'s. This being the case, the observed effects might be attributed to acquiring the wrong objects in track. A comparison of tracks 4/06 (Figure 4-19) and 3/02 (Figure 4-20) shows similar behavior and gives rise to the suspicion that 4/06 may actually be a transit track. From Figure 4-18, which shows a plot of the radar line-of-sight for track 2/37, it is apparent that the E-region auroral backscatter was not intercepted by the line-of-sight between the radar and satellite. There is some correlation, however, between the observed fade and the 300 km intercept curve. The fade could be caused by an irregularity structure above the backscatter regions. This fade is an indication that the fourth group of tracks may indeed be spherical satellites. If spherical, there is no doubt that they are severely perturbed.

TRAJECTORY COMPOSITE 2/25

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAL: 880
 TIME: 0700 1/12/13
 TO: 0700 1/15/53



TRACK # 2/25 SAT ID 0902 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure 4-1

AMPLITUDE SCINTILLATION 2/25

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 882
 TIME: FROM 270/ 1/12/13
 TO 270/ 1/15/53

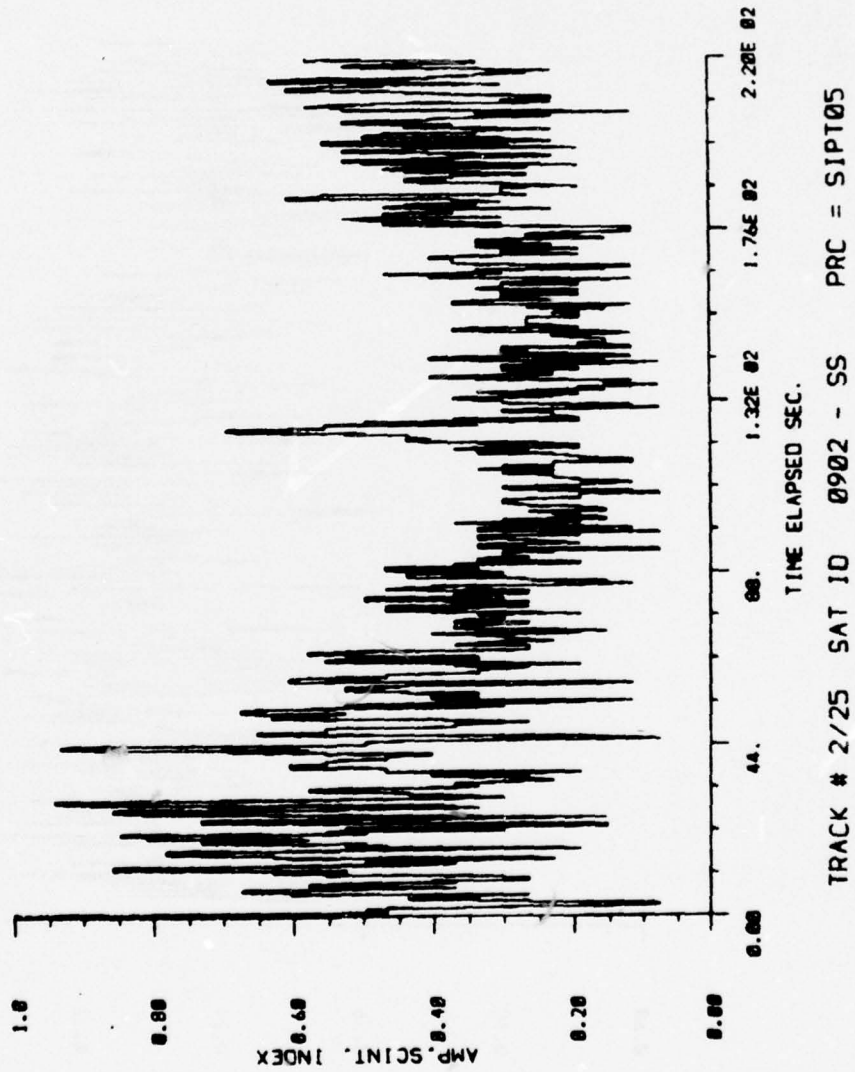


Figure 4-2

AZIMUTH PERTURBATION 2/25

BEAMS CENTER
SLANT 882
TIME: FROM 2107 1/12/13
TO 2707 1/15/53

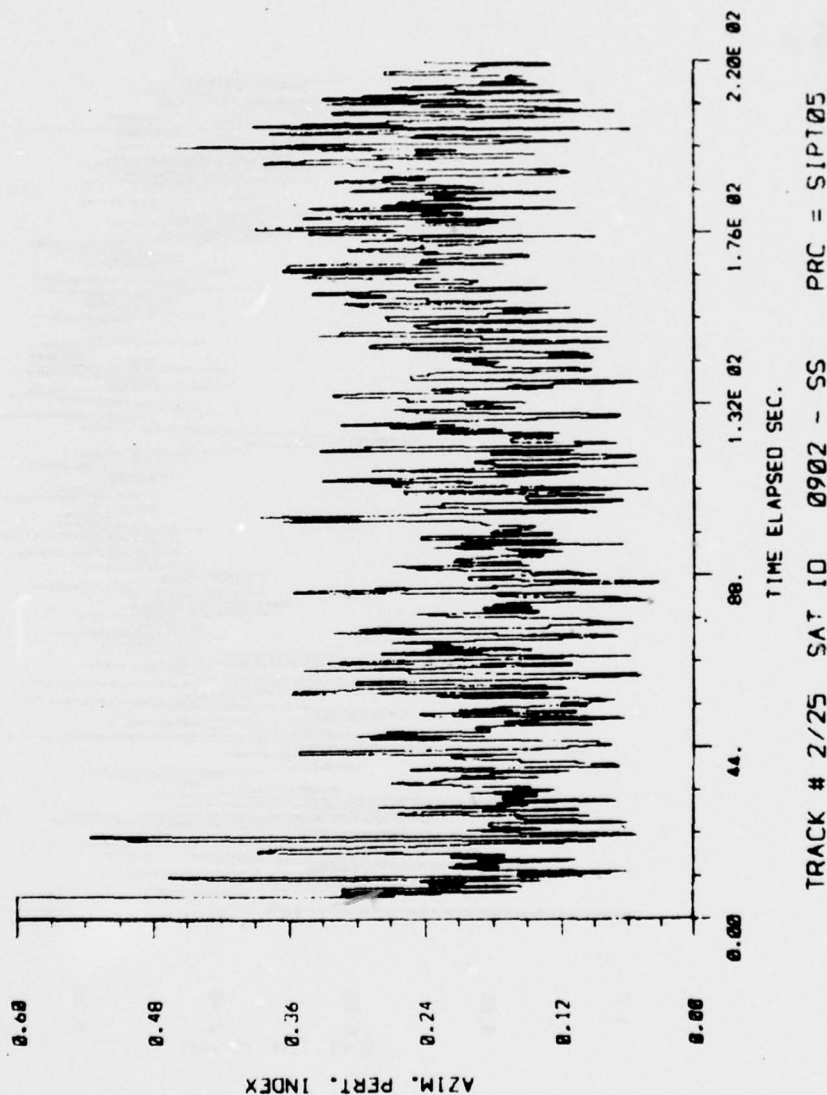
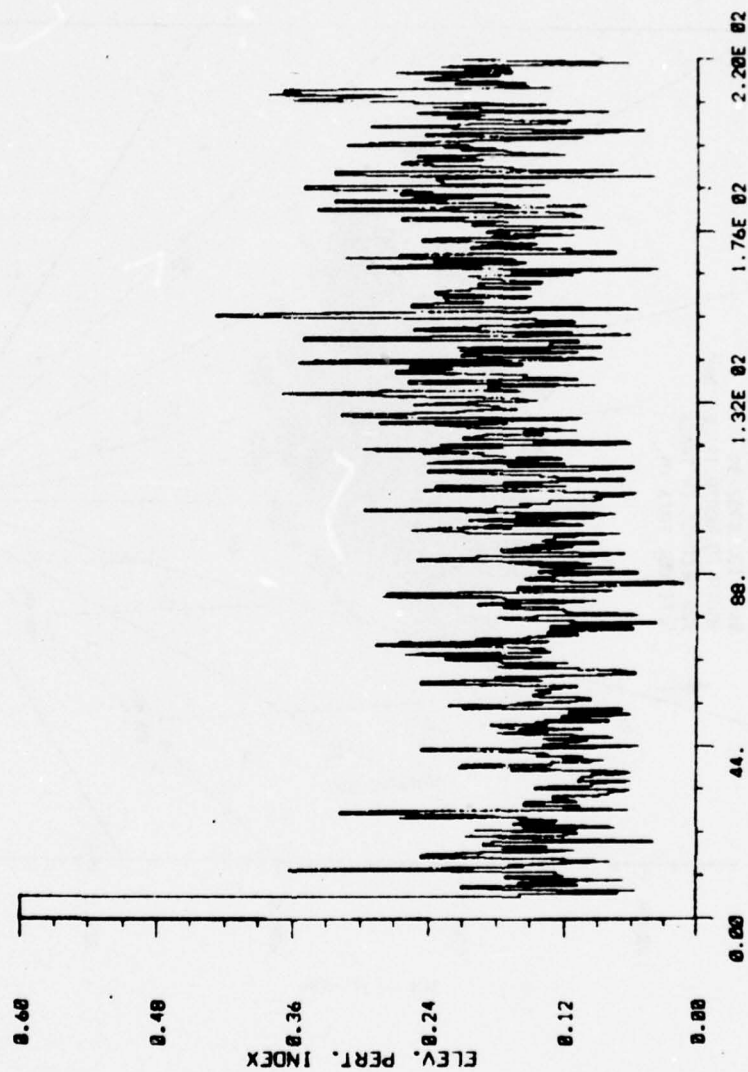


Figure 4-3

ELEVATION PERTURBATION 2/25

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 882
 TIME: FROM 270/ 1/12/13
 TO 270/ 1/15/53



TRACK # 2/25 SAT ID 0902 - SS PRC = SIPT05

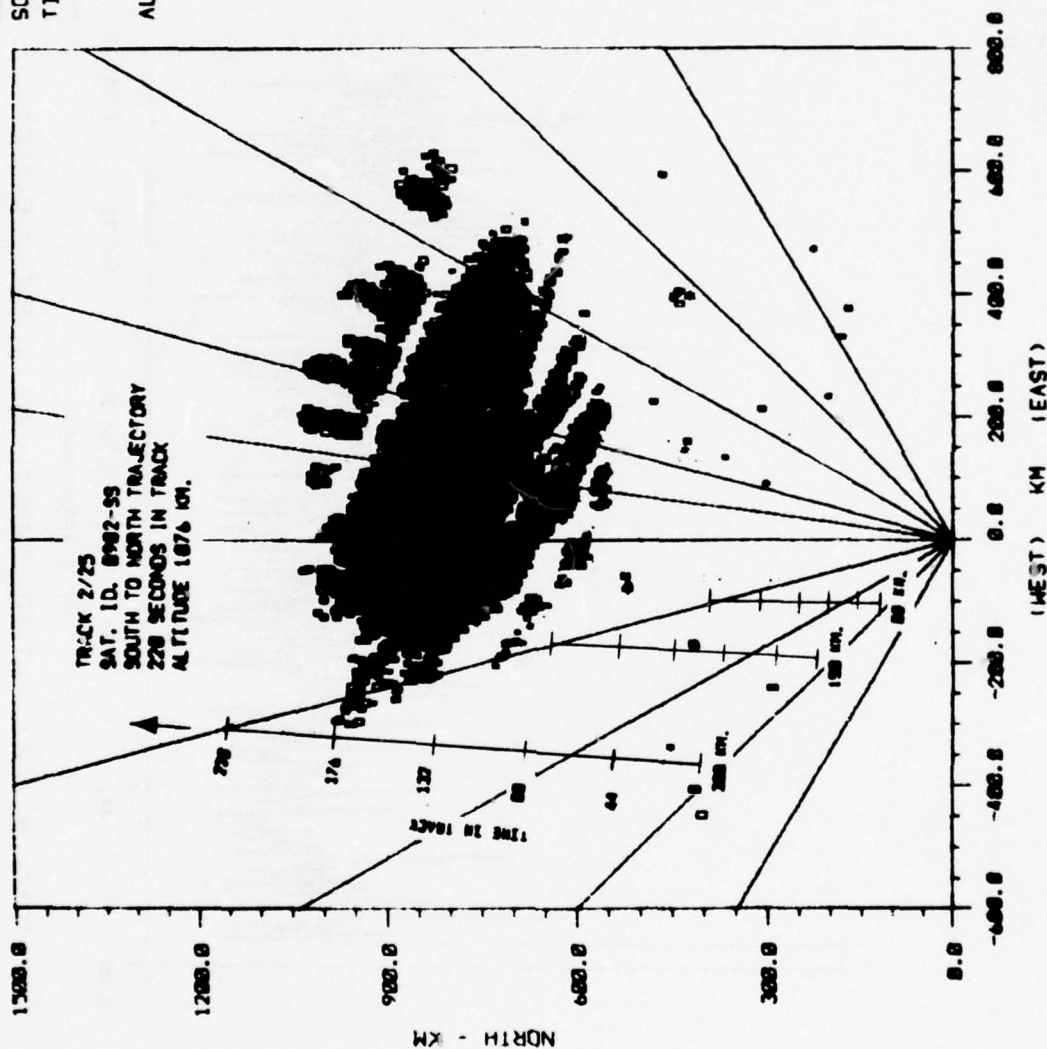
Figure 4-4

AURORAL BACKSCATTER WITH GROUND TRACKS 2/25

BEAM: BOTH
 SCAN: 882
 TIME: FROM 270/ 1/12/16
 TO 270/ 1/12/36

ALT (KM): 70.0 TO 170.0

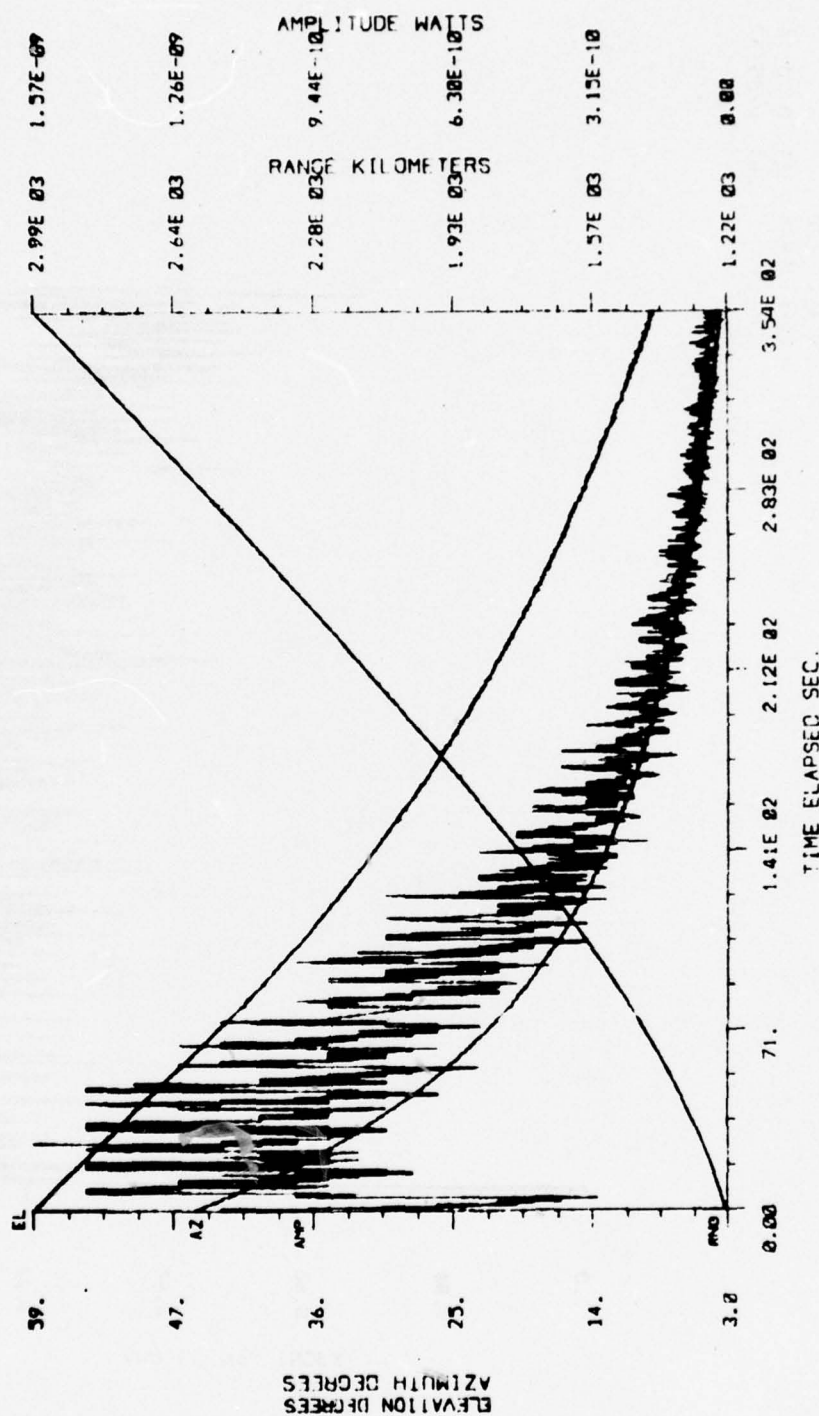
ALTITUDES	ON LEVEL
70.0 TO 80.0 KM	5
80.0 TO 90.0 KM	4
90.0 TO 100.0 KM	7
100.0 TO 110.0 KM	8
110.0 TO 120.0 KM	9
120.0 TO 130.0 KM	10
130.0 TO 140.0 KM	11
140.0 TO 150.0 KM	12
150.0 TO 160.0 KM	13
160.0 TO 170.0 KM	14



TOP DOWN VIEW SHOWING AURORAL REFLECTIVITY

TRAJECTORY COMPOSITE 1/04

BEAMS: CENTER
 SCANS: 120
 TIME: FROM 261/ 0/20/ 4
 TO 261/ 0/25/57

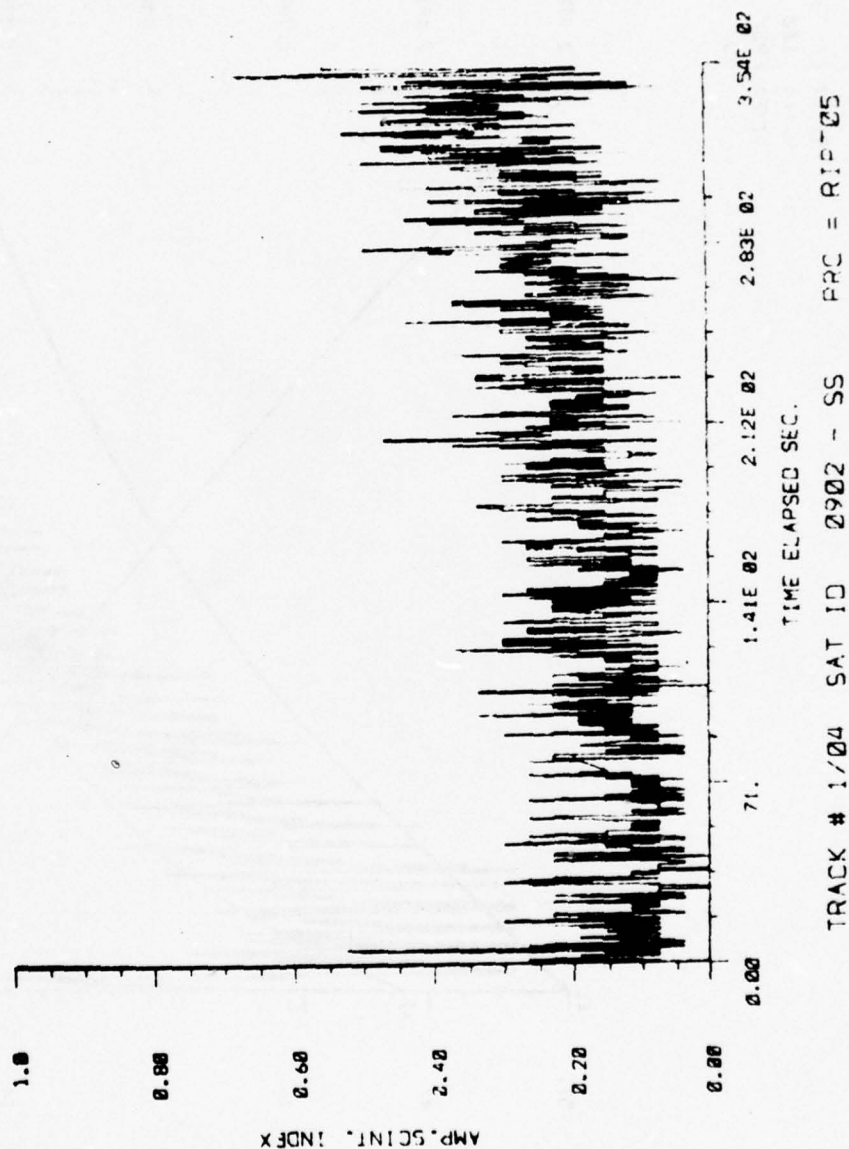


TRACK # 1/04 SAT ID 0902 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure 4-6

AMPLITUDE SCINTILLATION 1/04

BEAM CENTER
SCALE 100
TIME: 0700 4
0 201 025/57



AZIMUTH PERTURBATION 1/04

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 100
 TIME: FROM 261/ 0/20/ 4
 TO 261/ 0/25/57

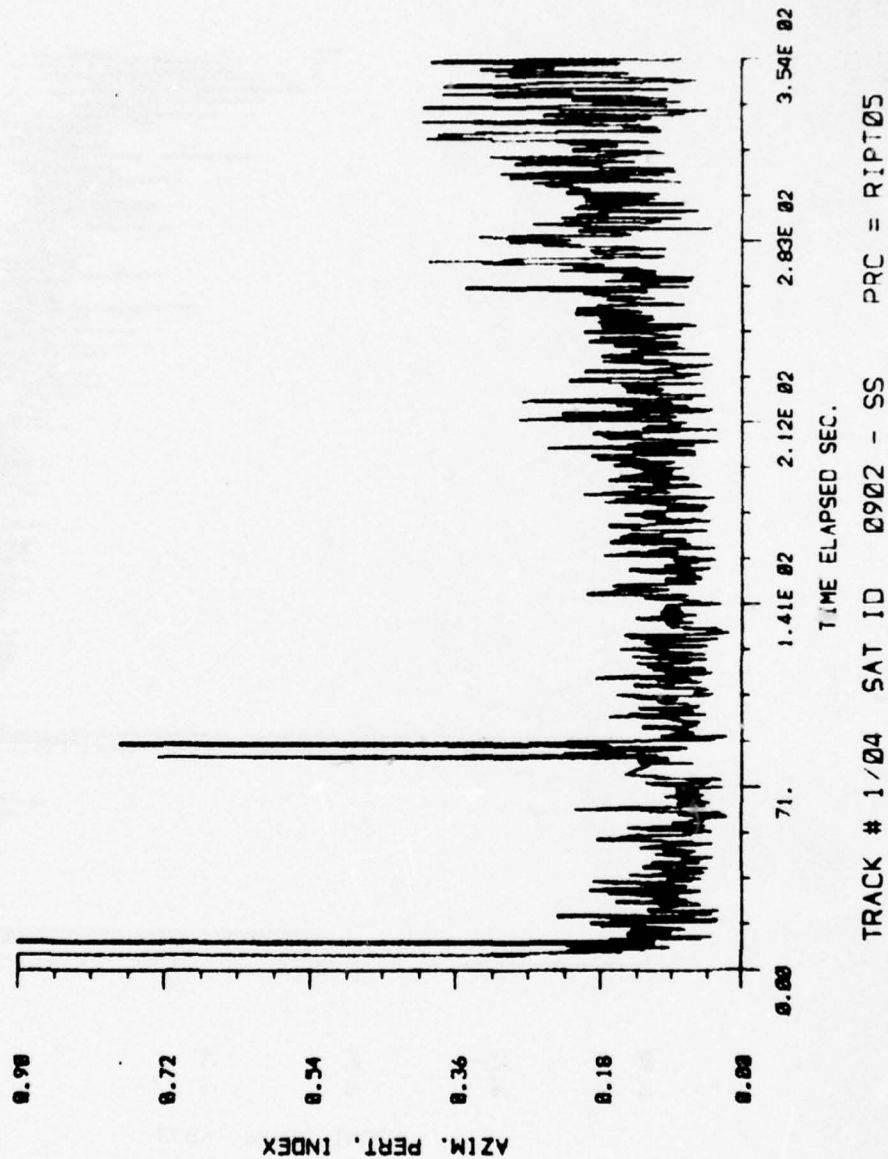
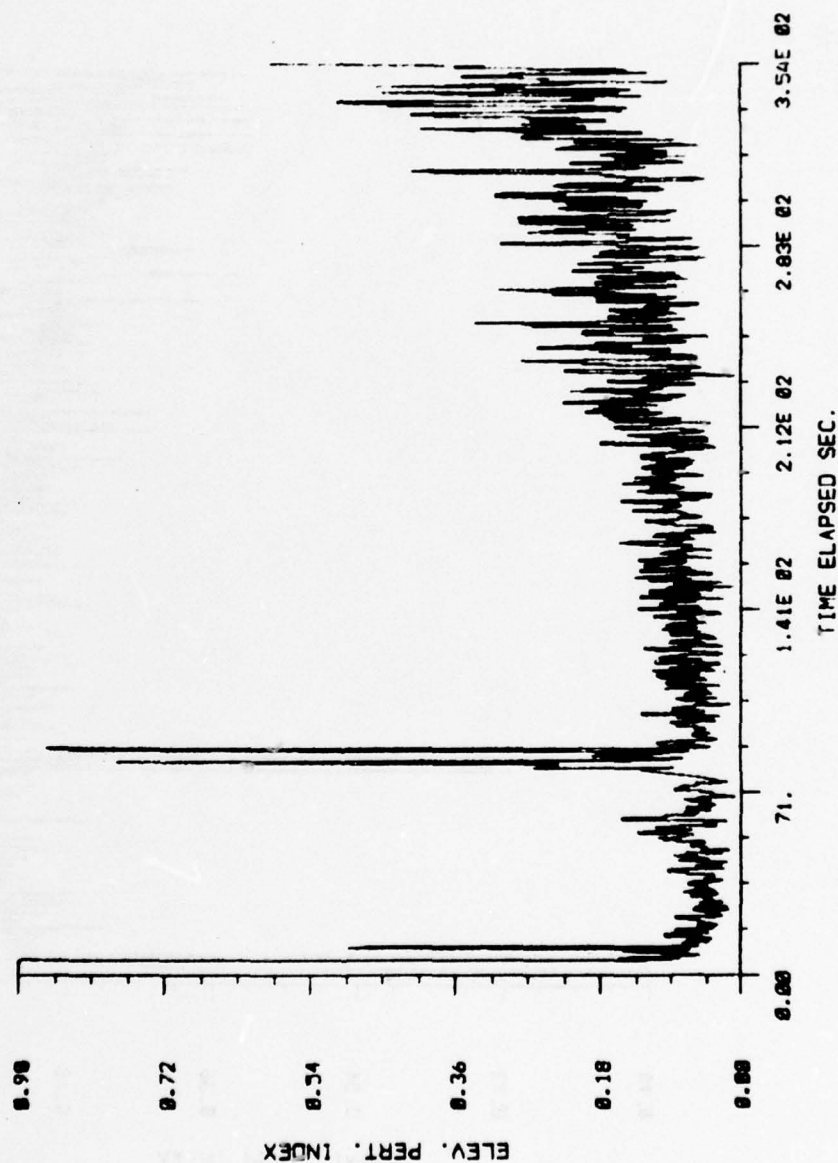


Figure 4-8

ELEVATION PERTURBATION 1/04

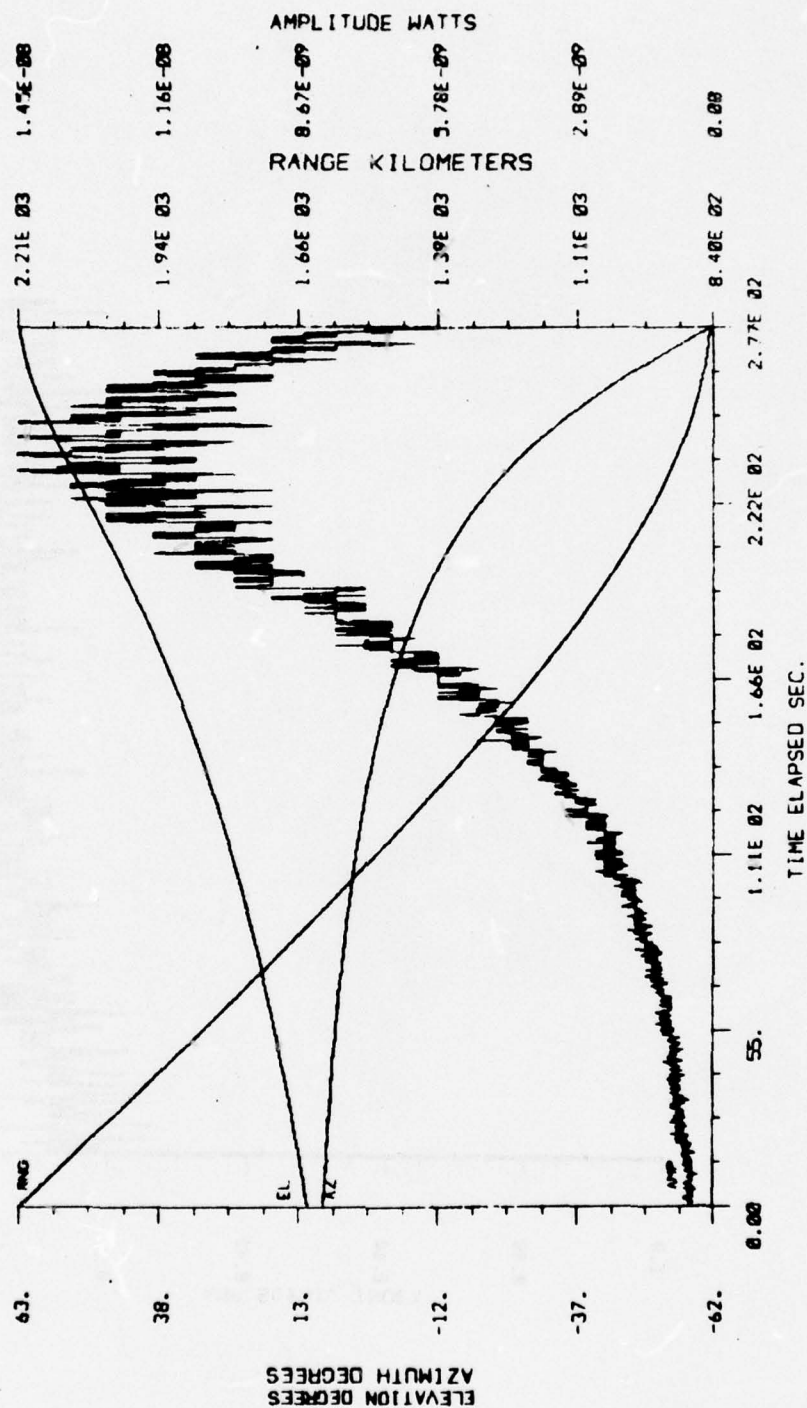
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 100
 TIME: FROM 261/ 0/20/ 4
 TO 261/ 0/25/57



TRACK # 1/04 SAT ID 0902 - SS PRC = R1PT05

Figure 4-9

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 456
 TIME: FROM 270/ 4/55/27
 TO 270/ 5/ 0/ 4

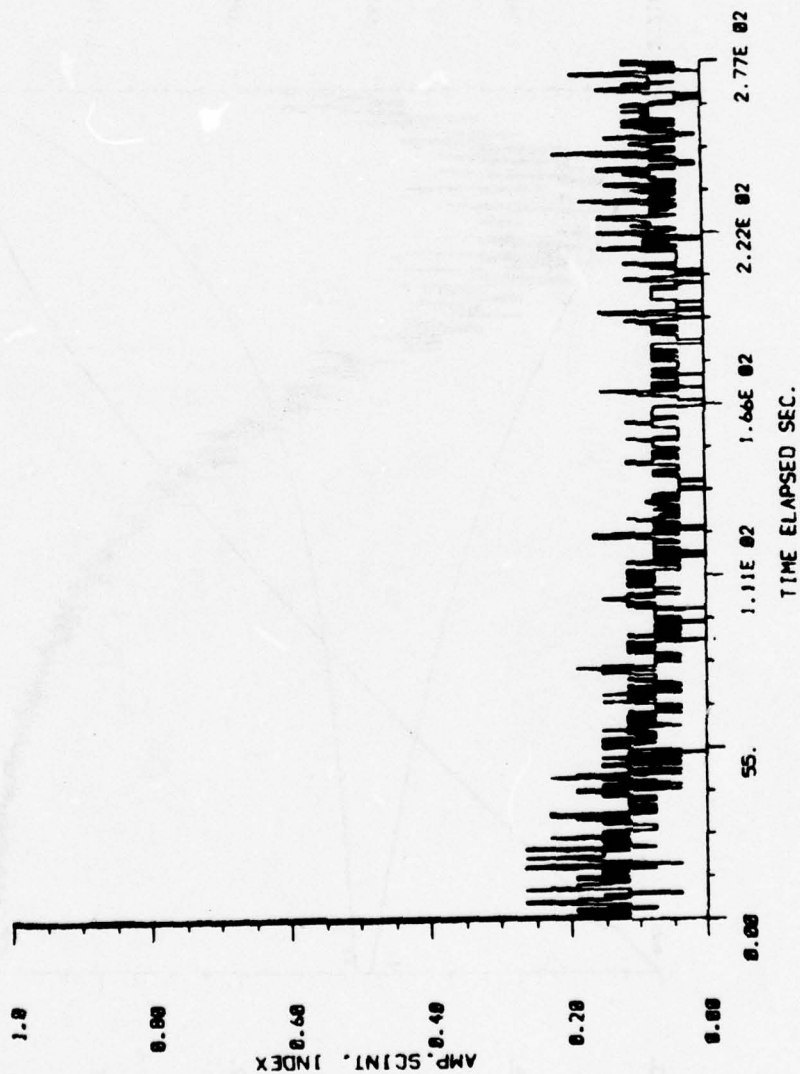


TRACK # 2/18 SAT ID 4957 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure 4-10

AMPLITUDE SCINTILLATION 2/18

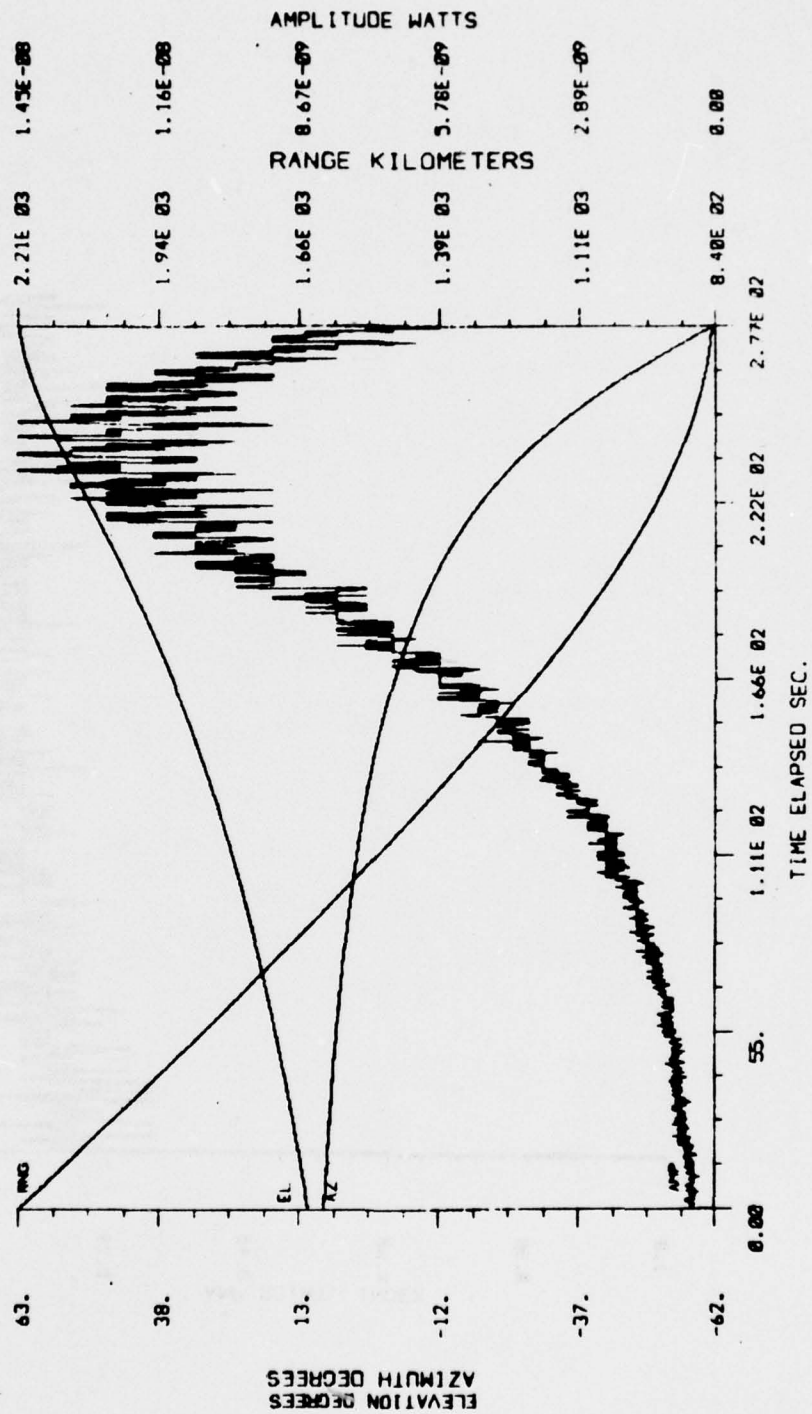
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 456
 TIME: FROM 270/ 4/55/27
 TO 270/ 5/ 0/ 4



TRACK # 2/18 SAT ID 4957 - SS PRC = SIPT05

Figure 4-11

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 456
 TIME: FROM 270/ 4/55/27
 TO 270/ 5/ 0/ 4

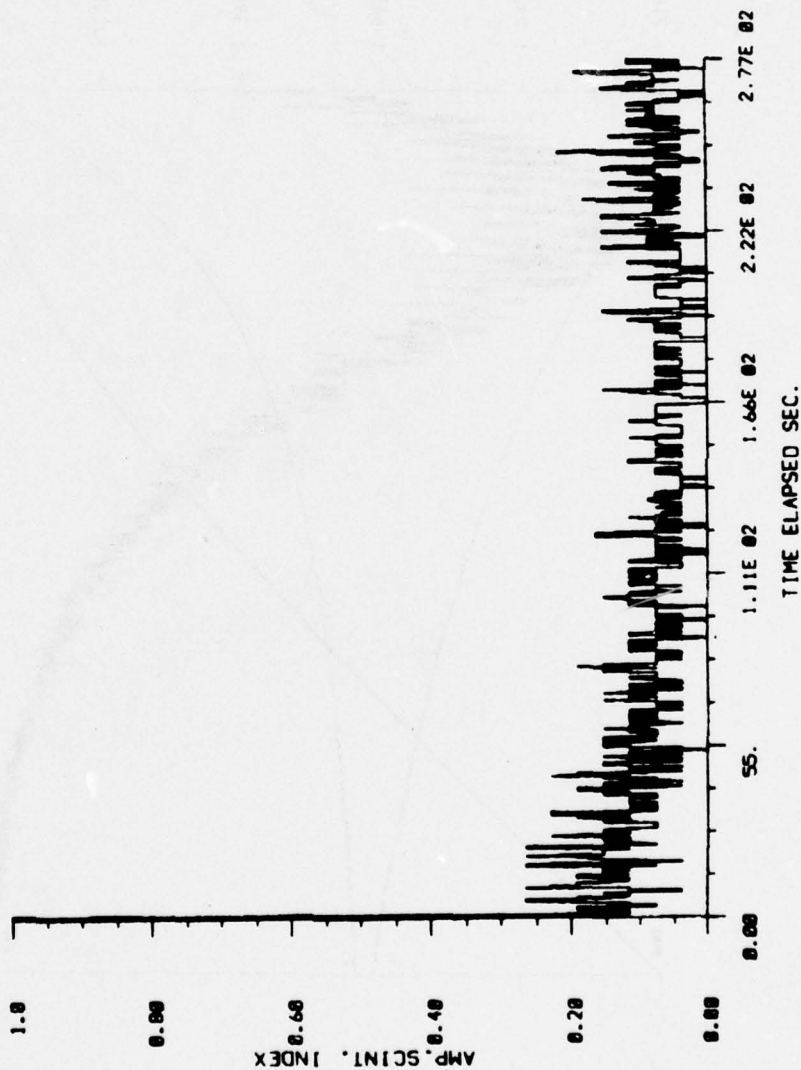


TRACK # 2/18 SAT ID 4957 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure 4-10

AMPLITUDE SCINTILLATION 2/18

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 456
 TIME: FROM 270/ 4/55/27
 TO 270/ 5/ 0/ 4

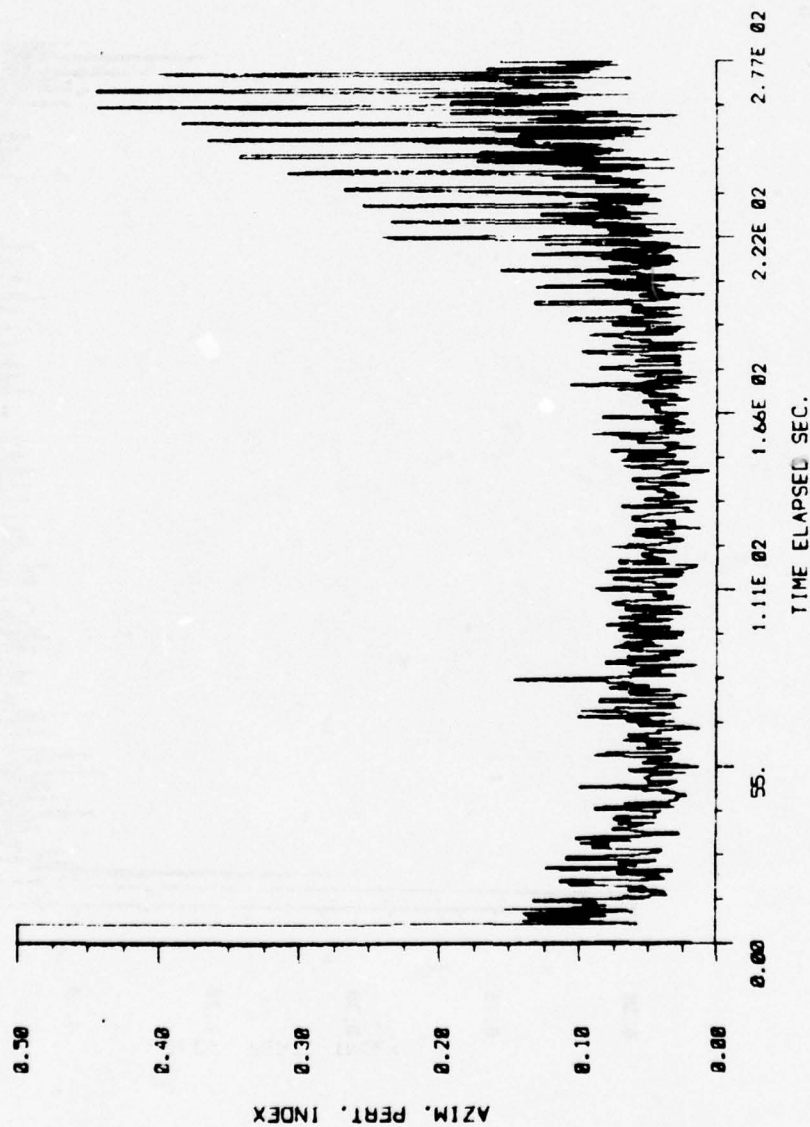


TRACK # 2/18 SAT ID 4957 - SS PRC = SIPT05

Figure 4-11

AZIMUTH PERTURBATION 2/18

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 456
 TIME: FROM 270/ 4/55/27
 TO 270/ 5/ 0/ 4

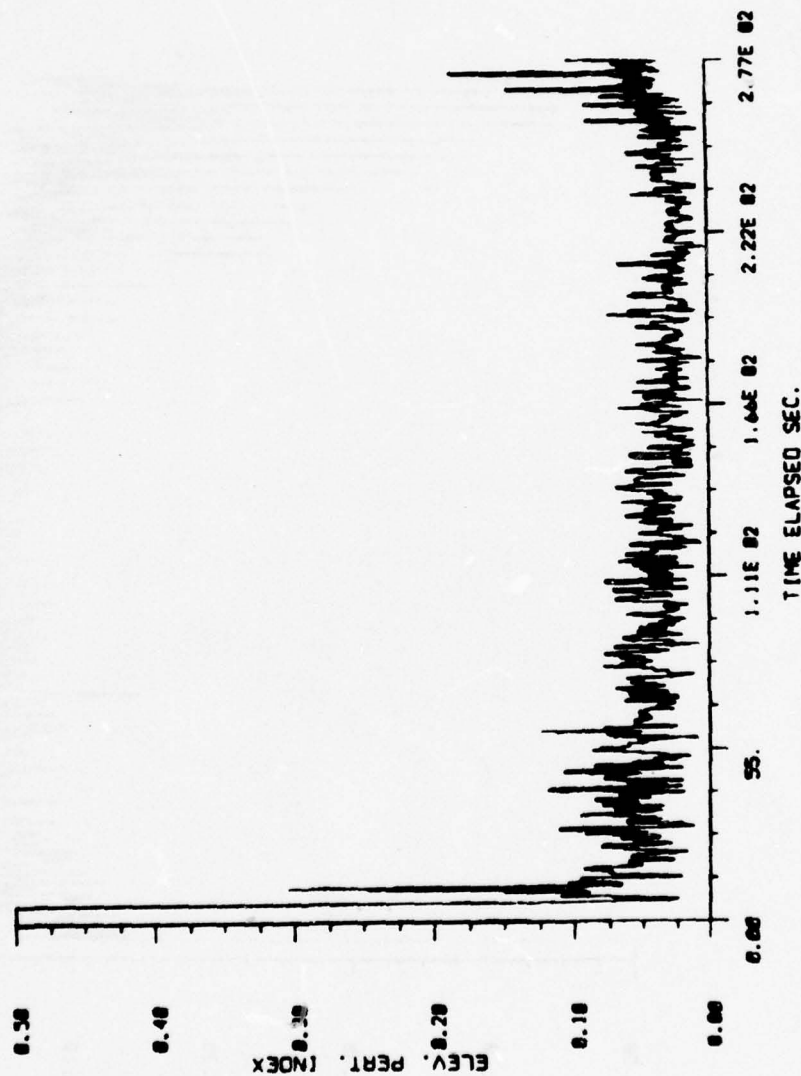


TRACK # 2/18 SAT ID 4957 - SS PRC = SIPT05

Figure 4-12

ELEVATION PERTURBATION 2/18

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 456
 TIME: FROM 270/ 4/55/27
 TO 270/ 5/ 0/ 4

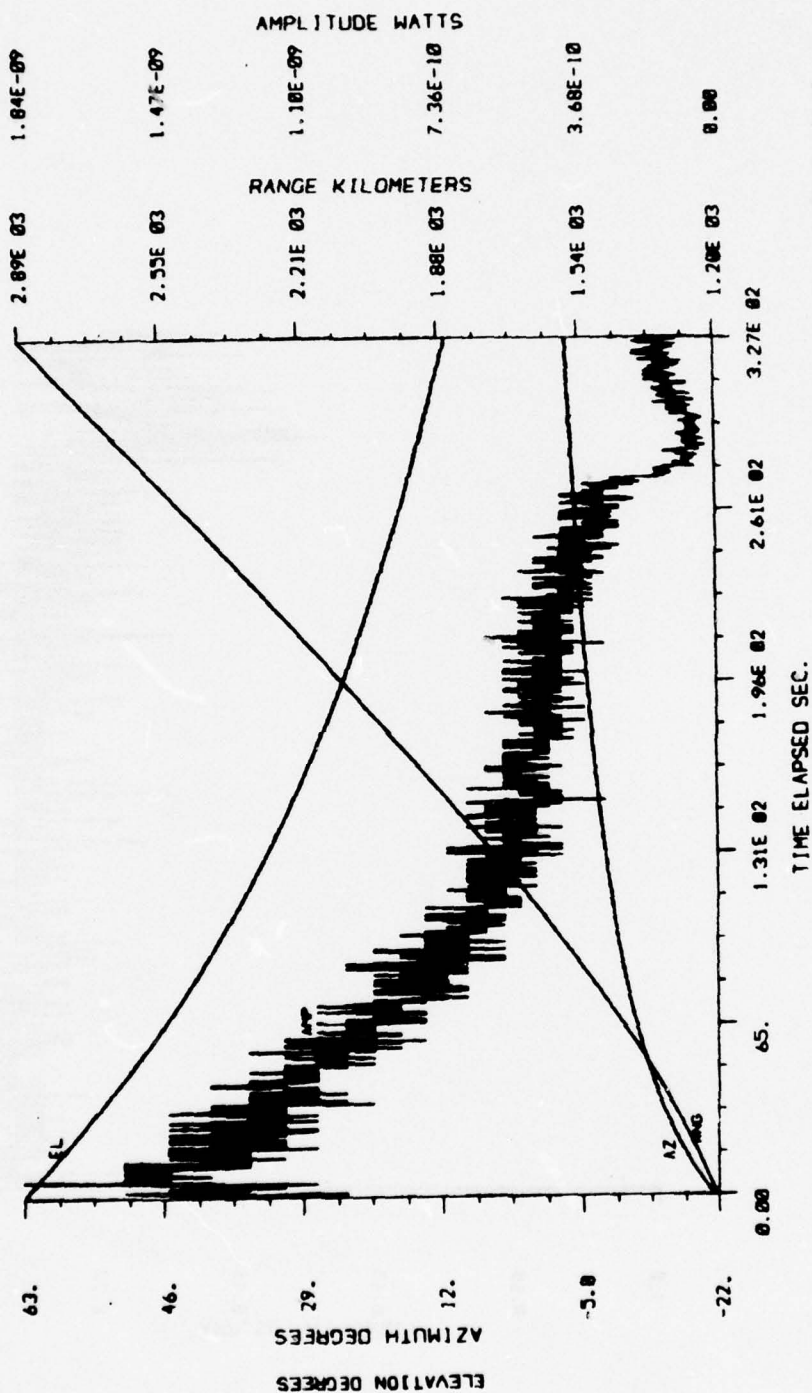


TRACK # 2/18 SAT ID 4957 - SS PRC = SIPT05

Figure 4-13

TRAJECTORY COMPOSITE 2737

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1222
 TIME: FROM 270/ 6/ 7/ 6
 TO 270/ 6/12/32

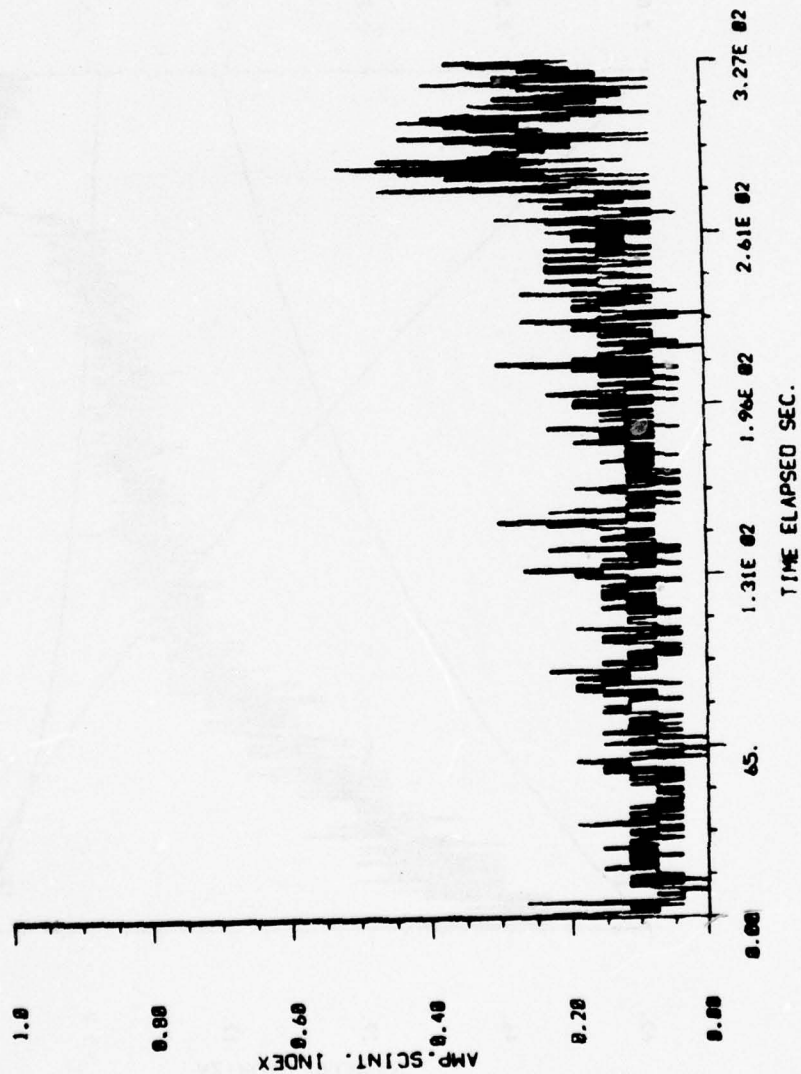


TRACK # 2/37 SAT ID 1512 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure 4-14

AMPLITUDE SCINTILLATION 2/37

BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 1222
 TIME: FROM 270/ 6/ 7/ 6
 TO 270/ 6/12/32

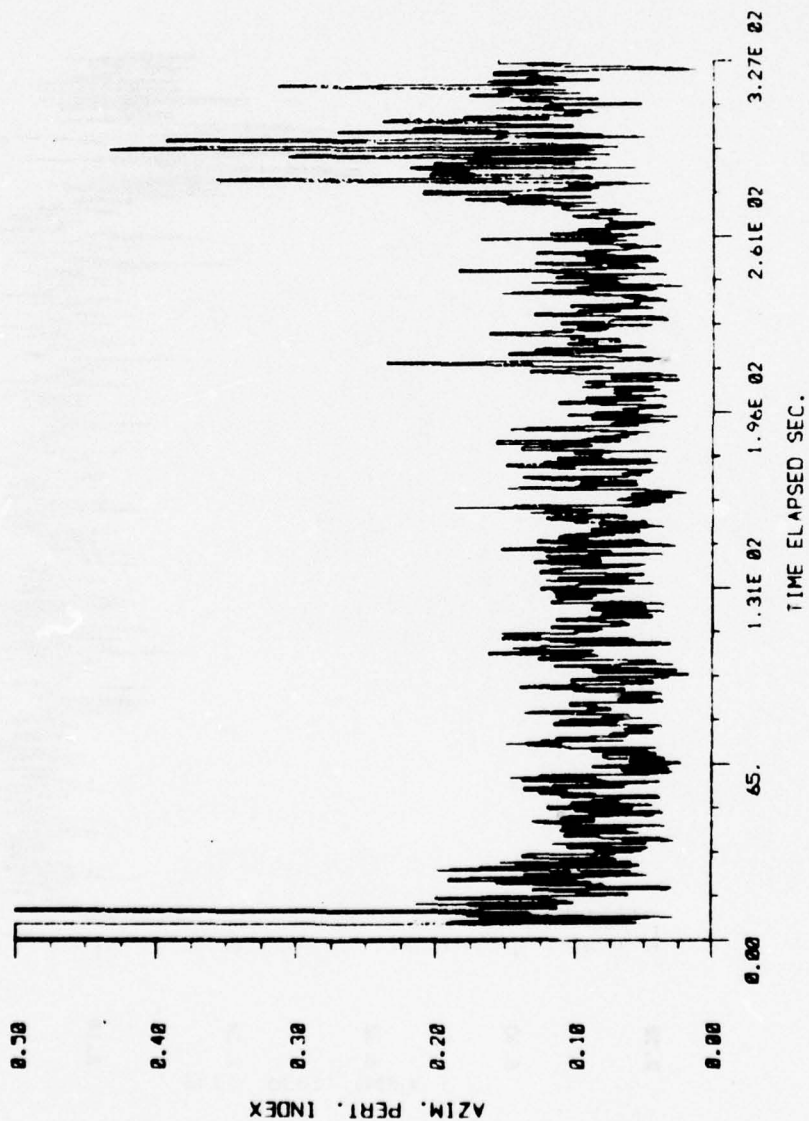


TRACK # 2/37 SAT ID 1512 - SS PRC = RIPI05

Figure 4-15

AZIMUTH PERTURBATION 2/37

BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 1222
 TIME: FROM 270/ 6/ 7/ 6
 TO 270/ 6/12/32

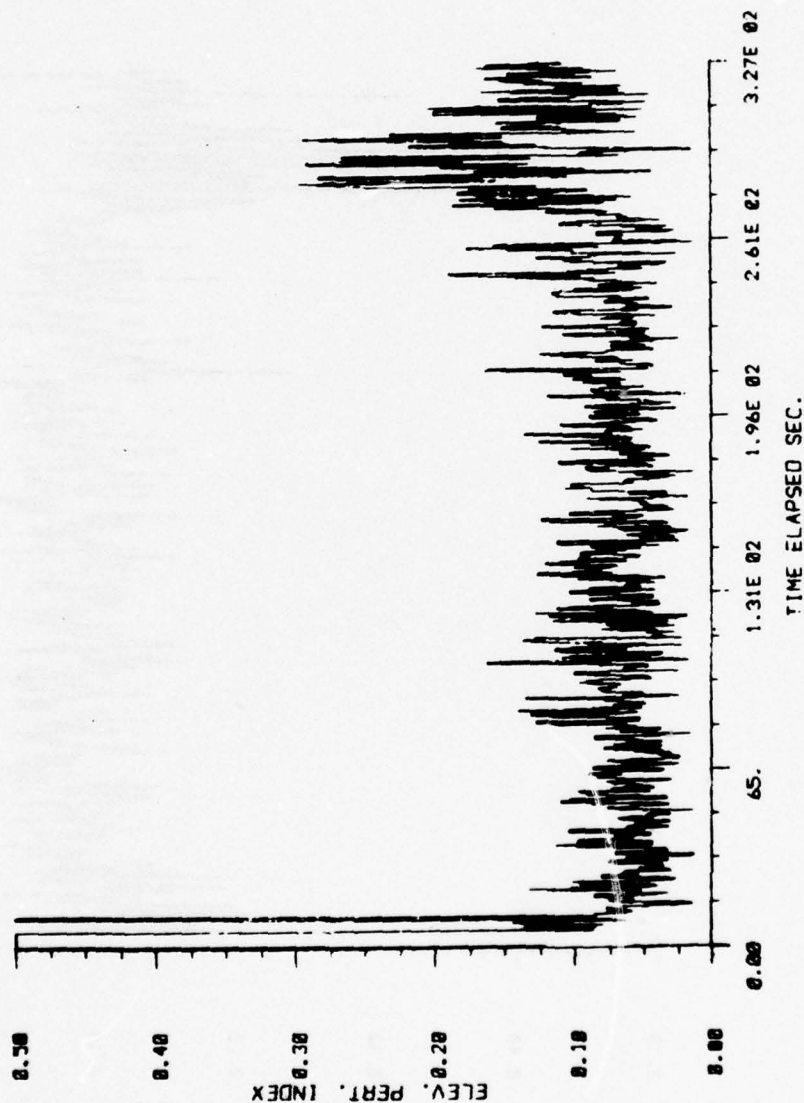


TRACK # 2/37 SAT ID 1512 - SS PRC = RIPT05

Figure 4-16

ELEVATION PERTURBATION 2/37

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1222
 TIME: FROM 270/ 6/ 7/ 6
 TO 270/ 6/12/32

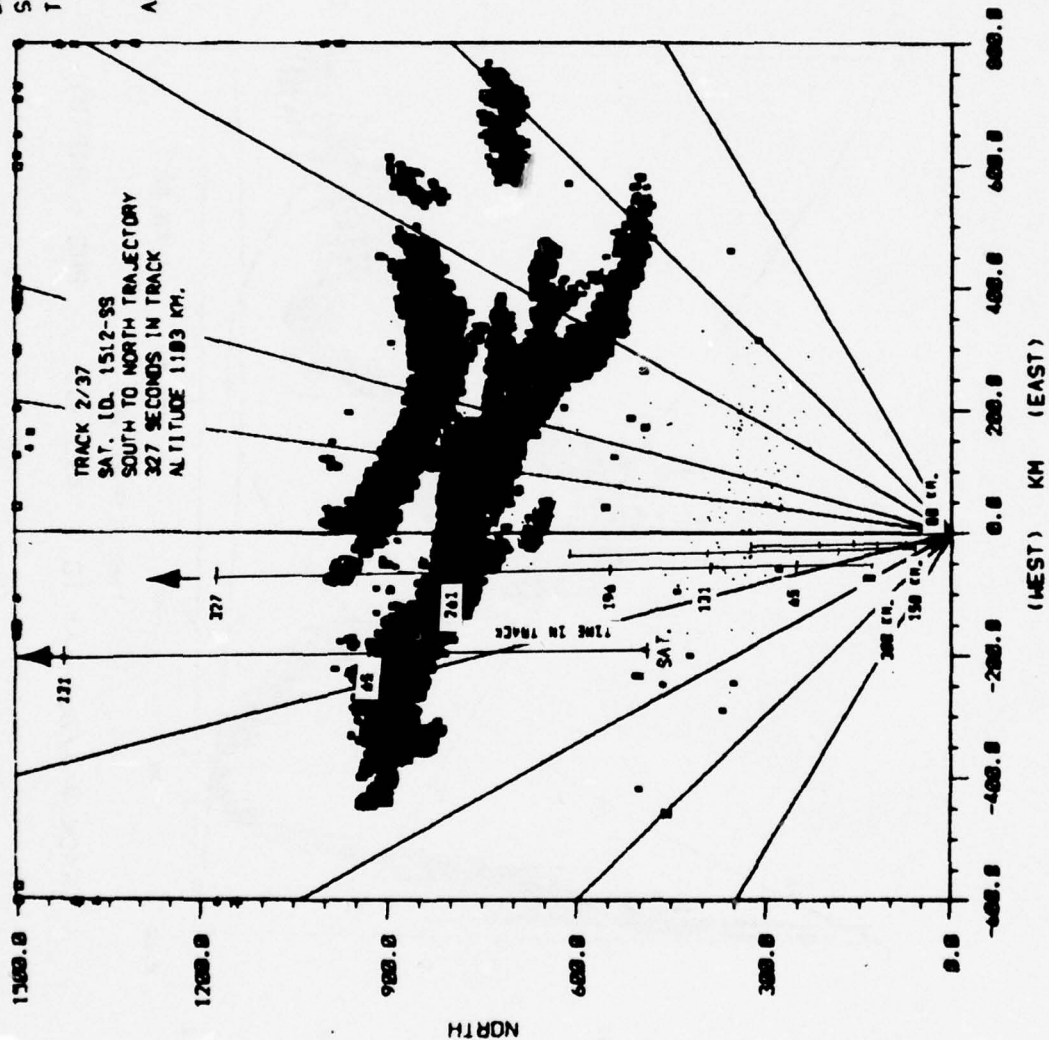


TRACK # 2/37 SAT ID 1512 - SS PRC = RIPT05

Figure 4-17

AURORAL BACKSCATTER WITH GROUND TRACKS 2/37

BEAM: BOTH
 SCAN: 1237
 TIME: FROM 278/ 6/12/58
 TO 278/ 6/13/34
 ALT (KM): 69.7 TO 1491.

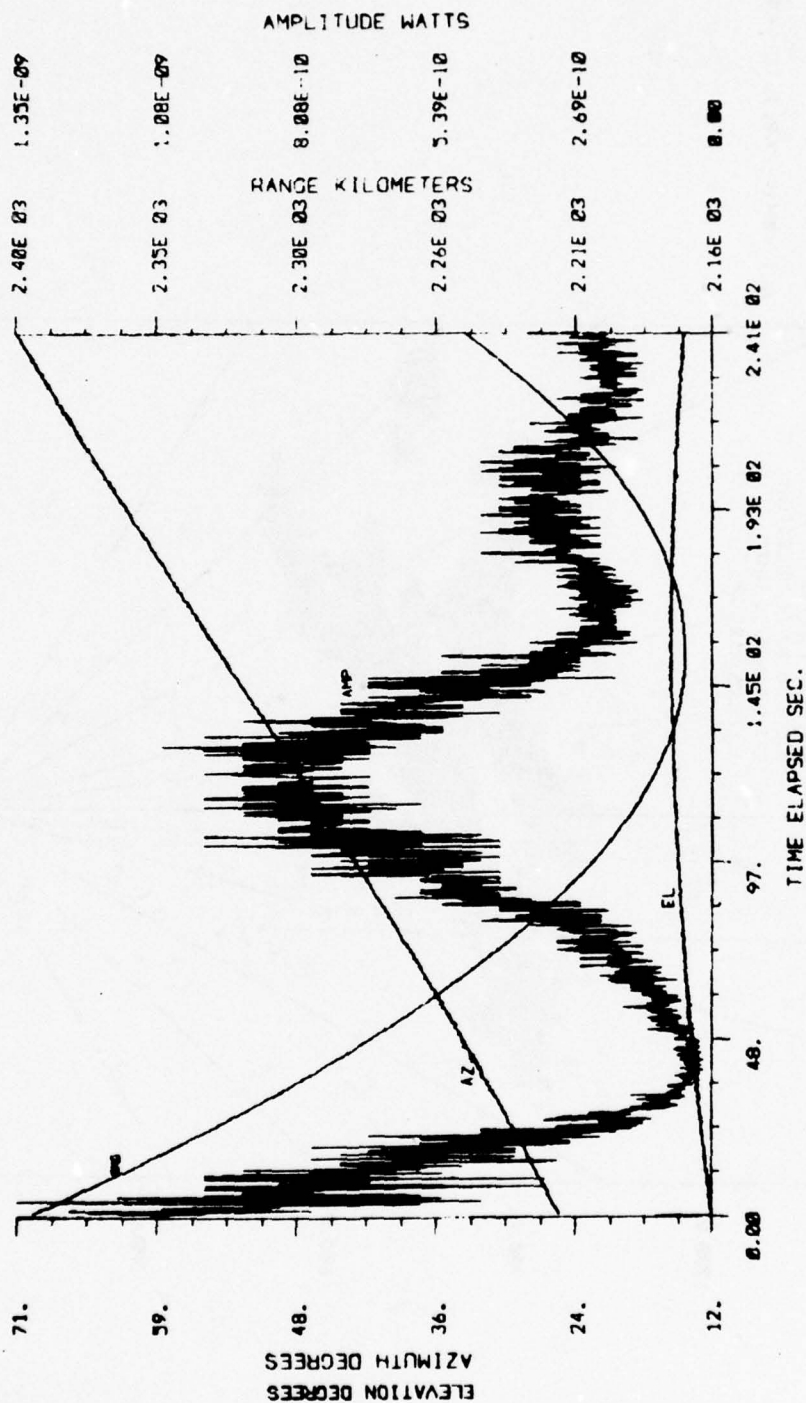


TOP DOWN VIEW OF AURORAL PHENOMENA AT PAR

Figure 4-18

TRAJECTORY COMPOSITE 4/06

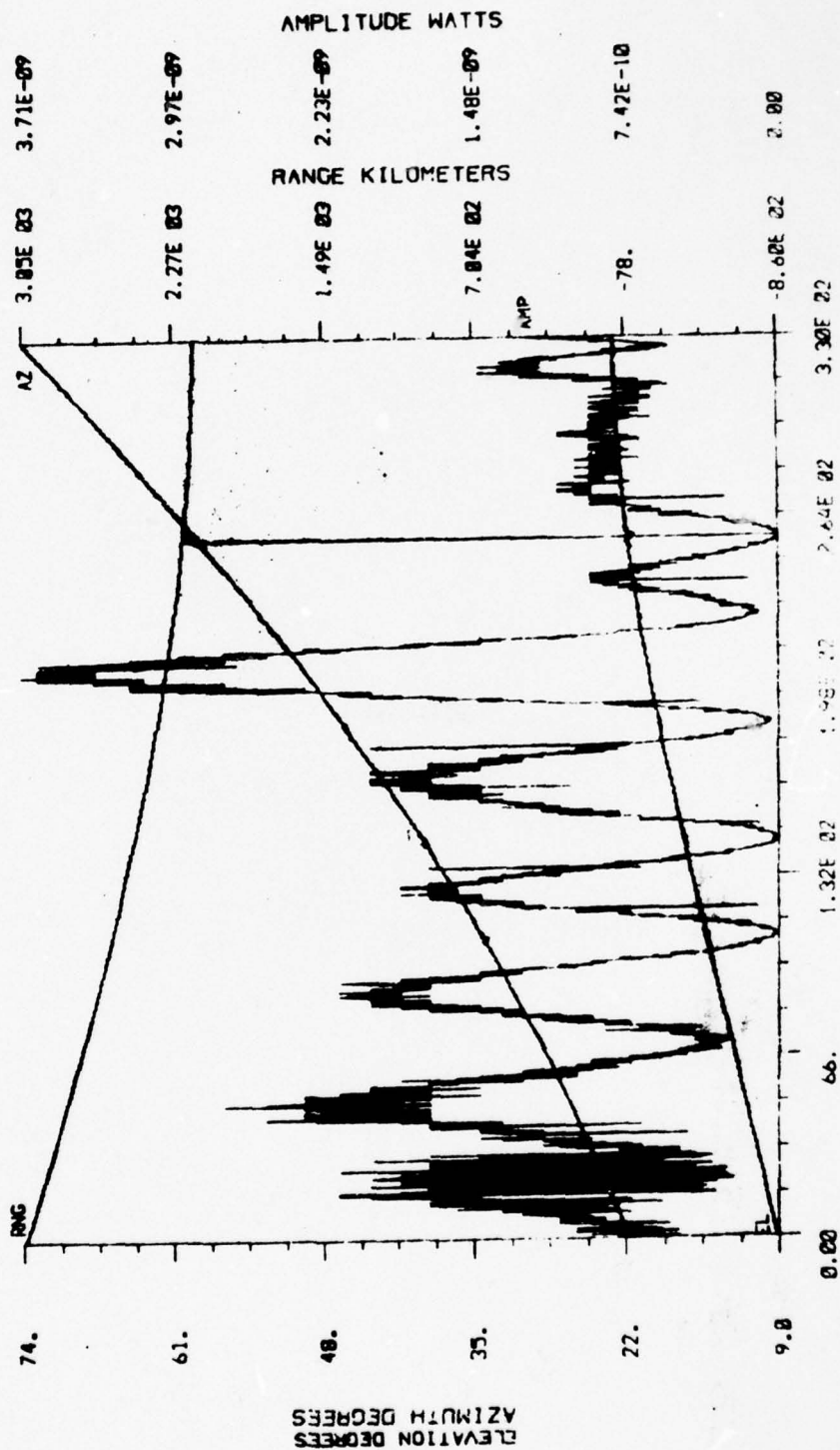
BLAM: CENTER
 SPAN: 1294
 TIME: FROM 86/ 4/ 5/22
 TO 86/ 4/ 9/23



TRACK # 4/06 SAT ID 4957-SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure 4-19

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1496
 TIME: FROM 70/ 2/21/40
 TO 70/ 2/27/10



TRACK # 3/02 SAT ID 2827 - 70 SRC = RPTD

Figure 4-20

5. CONCLUSIONS

From the results of the experiment we confirm that the PAR can be significantly influenced by scintillations. Furthermore, there appears to be some correlation between the auroral backscatter zone and the occurrence of scintillation. In the case of the tracks of Group 4, the scintillation effects were such as to render their signatures unrecognizable. Thus we were unable to confidently determine the identity of the objects tracked. Furthermore, we could not confirm that the PAR tracked the intended satellites. This raises the possibility that during intense auroral events the target discrimination mission of the PAR may be seriously impaired or even rendered useless. The detection of multiple targets in close proximity will certainly be impaired. To determine the extent of the total impact on the PAR mission, further study is required.

Future studies would utilize the multiple-object track capabilities of the PAR to map the extent of the irregularity structures responsible for scintillation. The use of mainly spherical satellites with known ephemeris would allow a measure of the scintillation intensities and their relative probabilities to be obtained. Auroral backscatter data should be taken concurrently to allow investigation of E-region scintillations and establish the degree of correlation between auroral backscatter zones and ionospheric scintillation. In addition, the experiment should include magnetometer and riometer data as well as normal planetary magnetic indices. The experiment should then be of sufficient duration to allow determination of the correlation between probability and intensity of scintillation and the geophysical parameters. With this information the track and discrimination capabilities of the PAR in an aurorally perturbed environment can be determined precisely.

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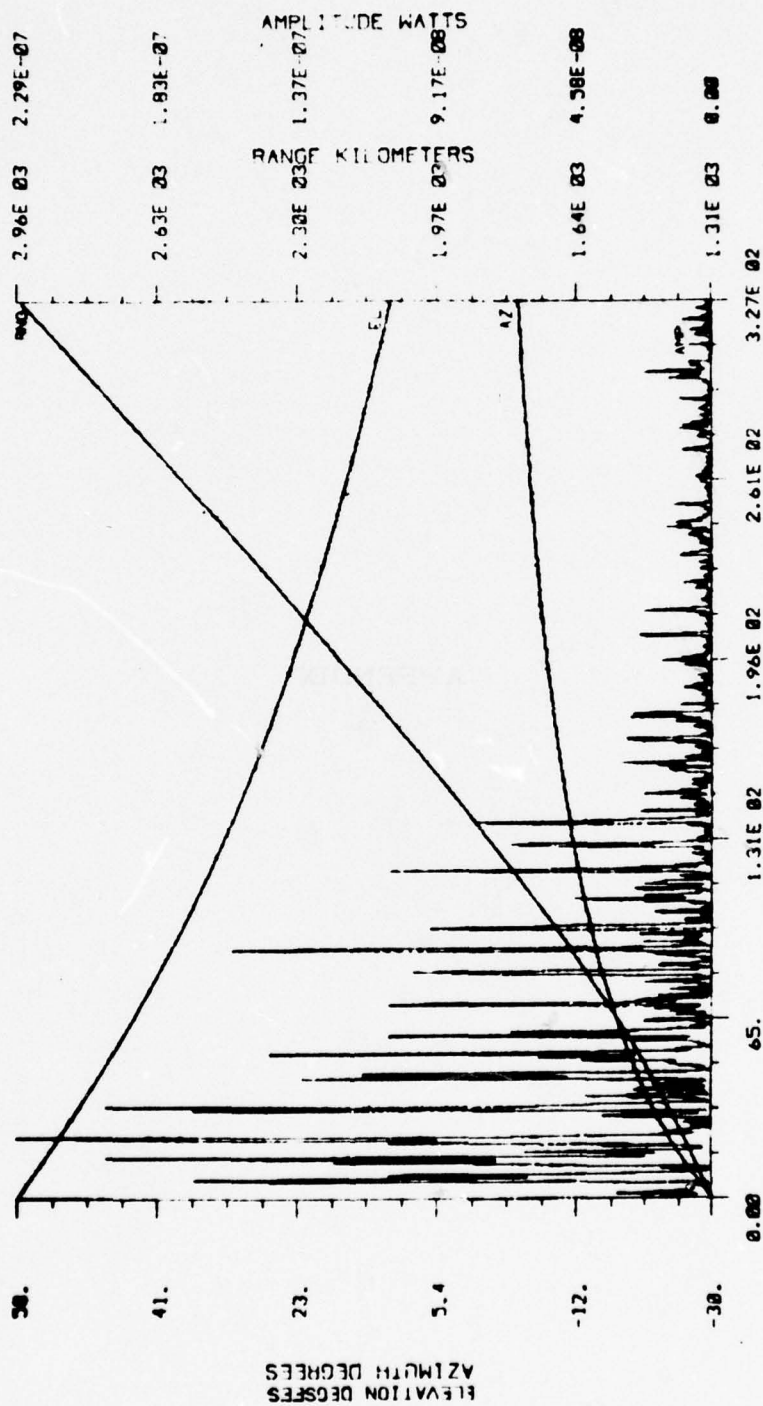
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APPENDIX

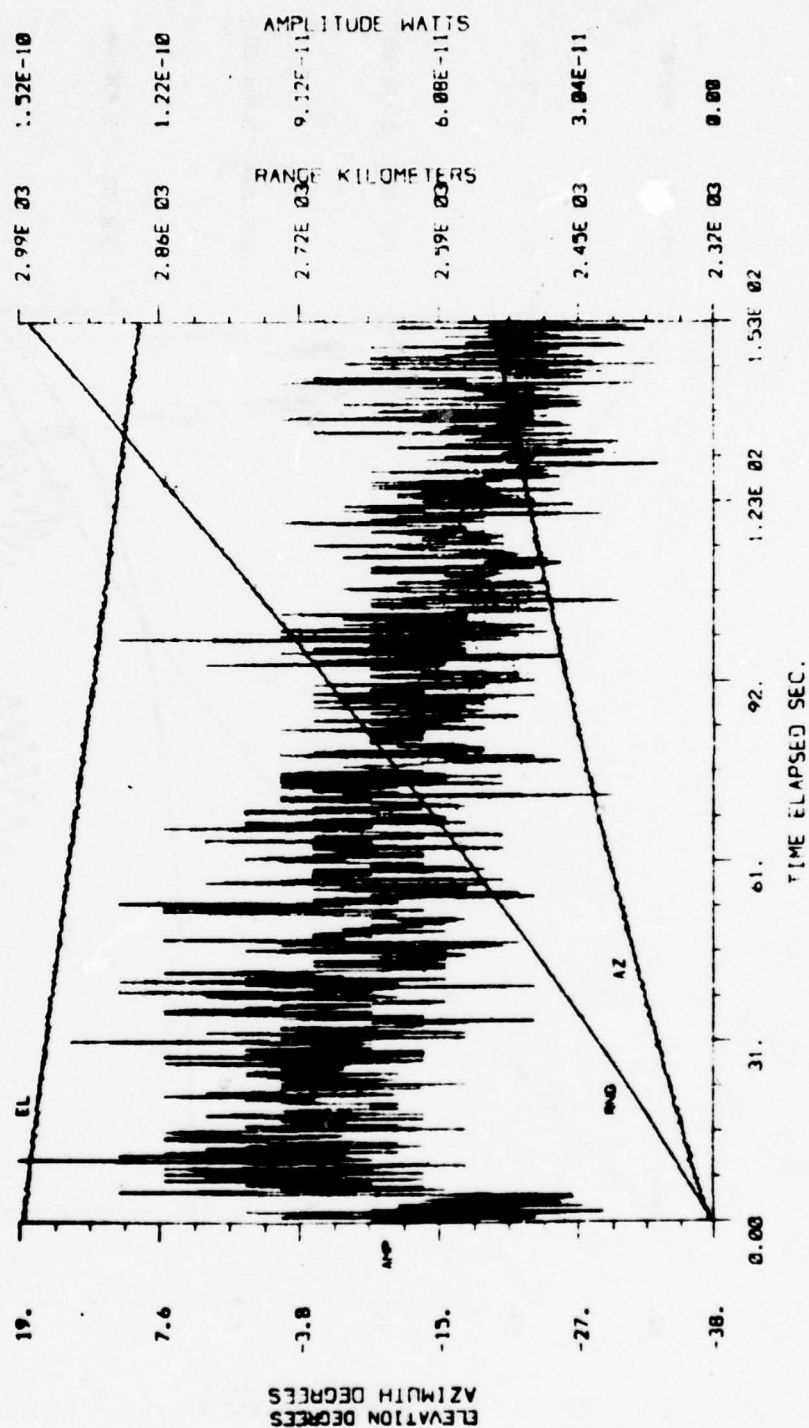
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 2:5
 TIME: FROM 261/ 1/28/46
 TO 261/ 1/34/12



TRACK # 1/08 SAT ID 3133 - TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-1

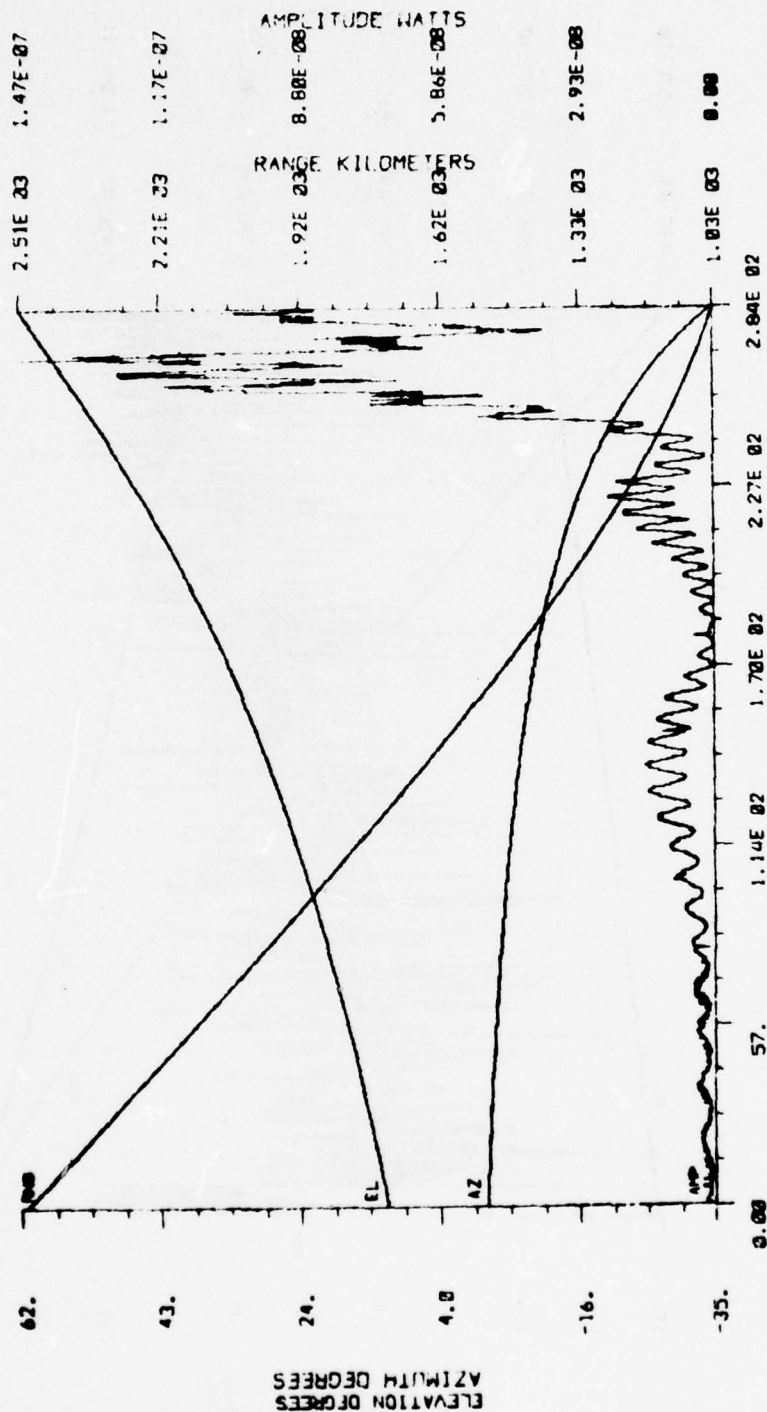
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 1414
 TIME: FROM 261/ 2/ 9/18
 TO 261/ 2/11/5:



TRACK # 1/12 SAT ID 0902 - SS PROC = R1PT01

Figure A-2

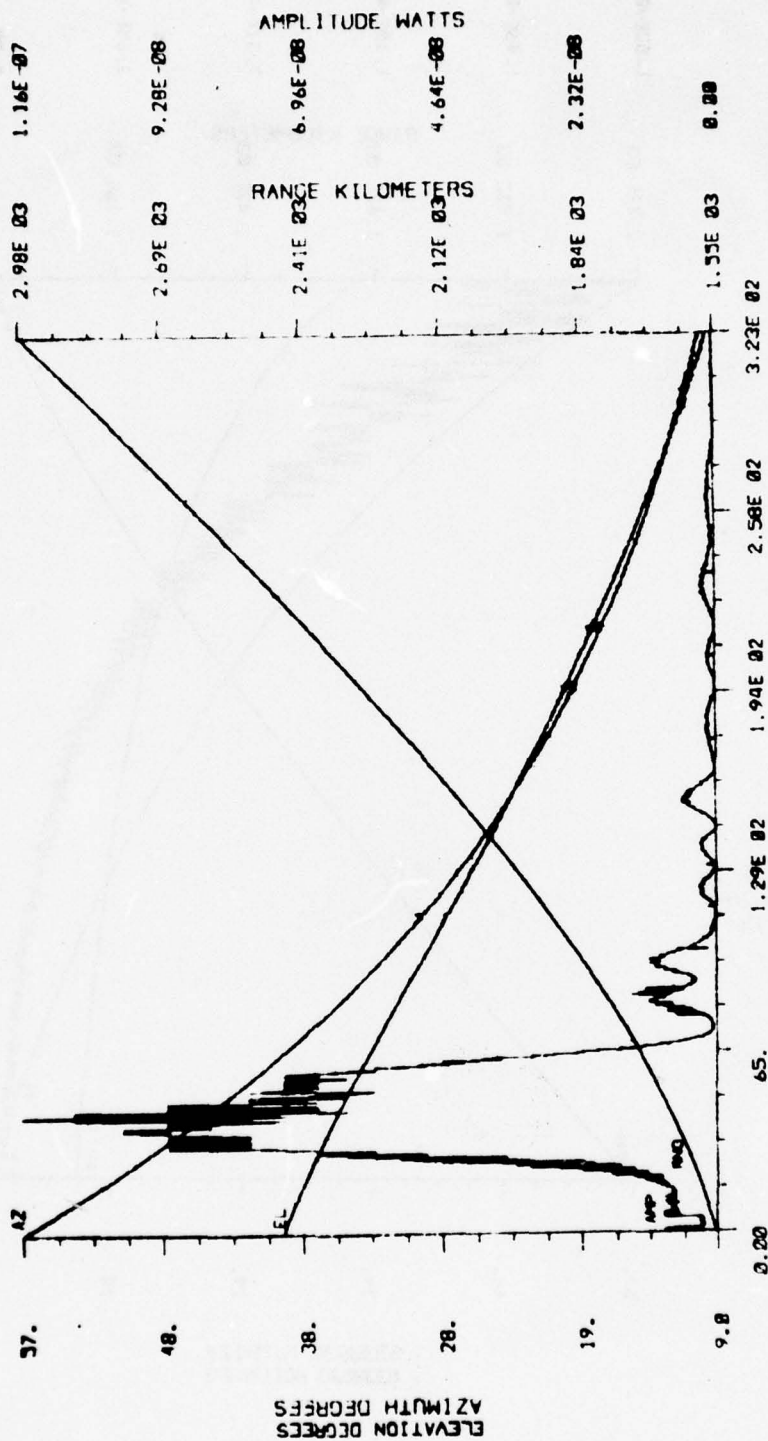
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 275
 TIME: FROM 261/ 2/56/22
 TO 261/ 3/ 1/ 5



TRACK # 1/16 SAT ID 6909 - TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-3

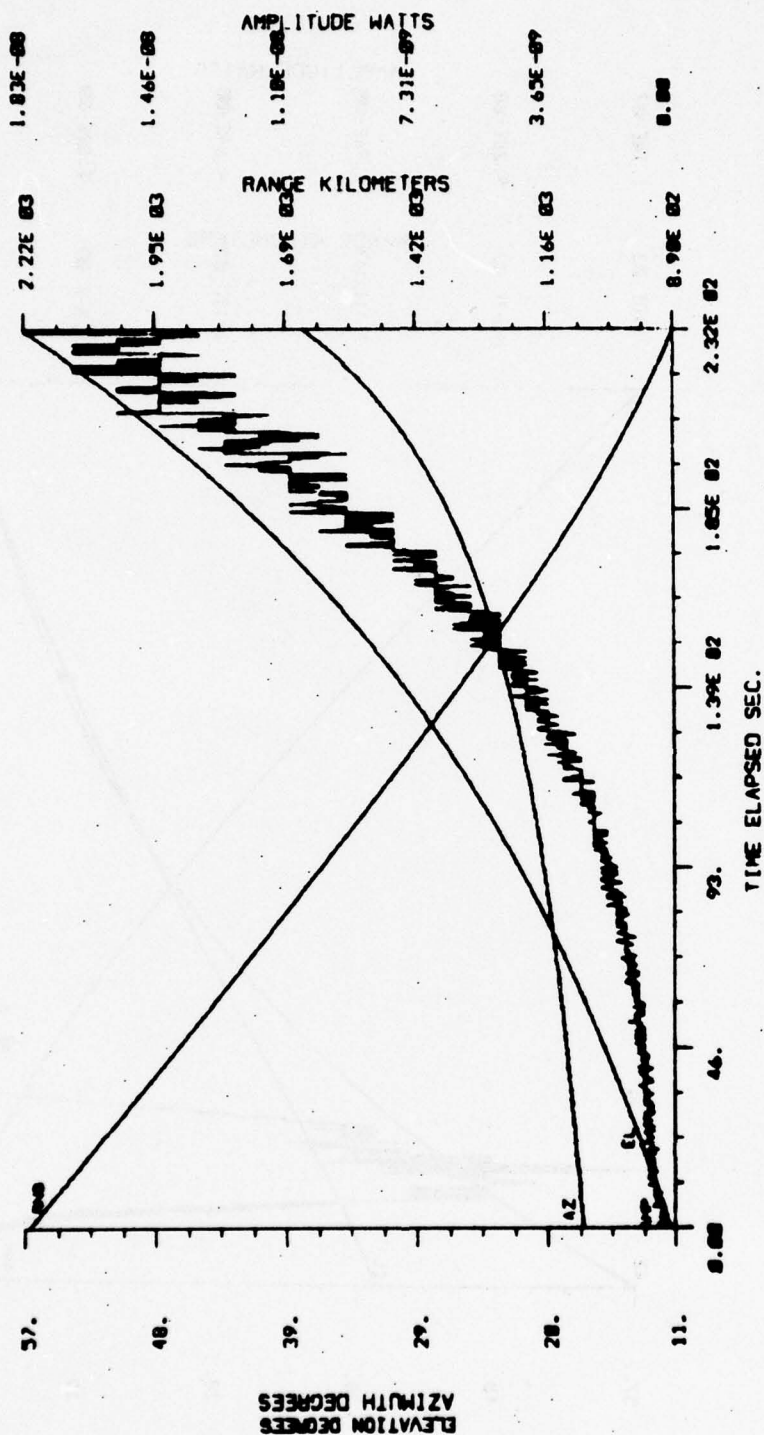
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 289
 TIME: FROM 261/ 3/ 5/53
 TO 261/ 3/11/16



TRACK # 1/20 SAT ID 2807 - TD* PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-4

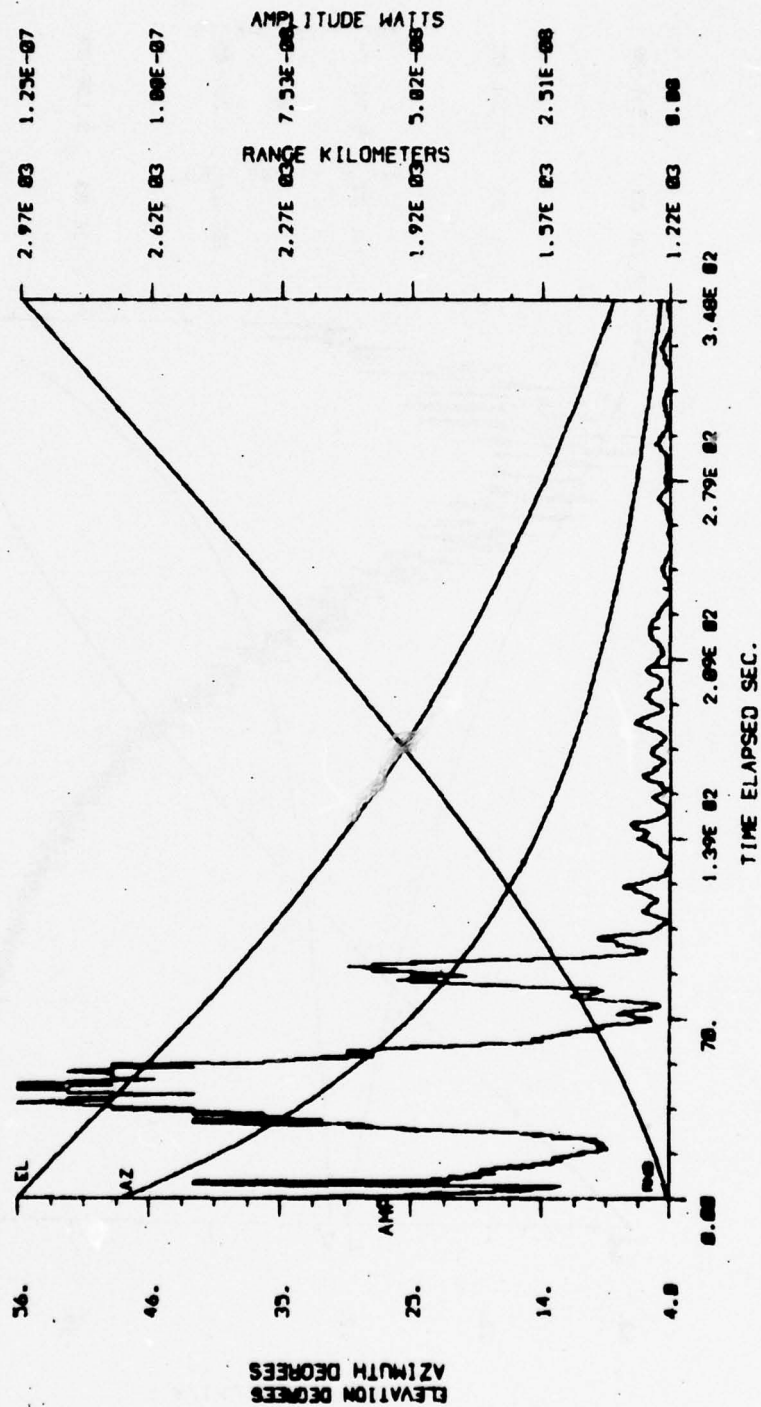
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 476
 TIME: FROM 261/ 4/26/ 8
 TO 261/ 4/30/ 8



TRACK # 1/24 SAT ID 4957 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-5

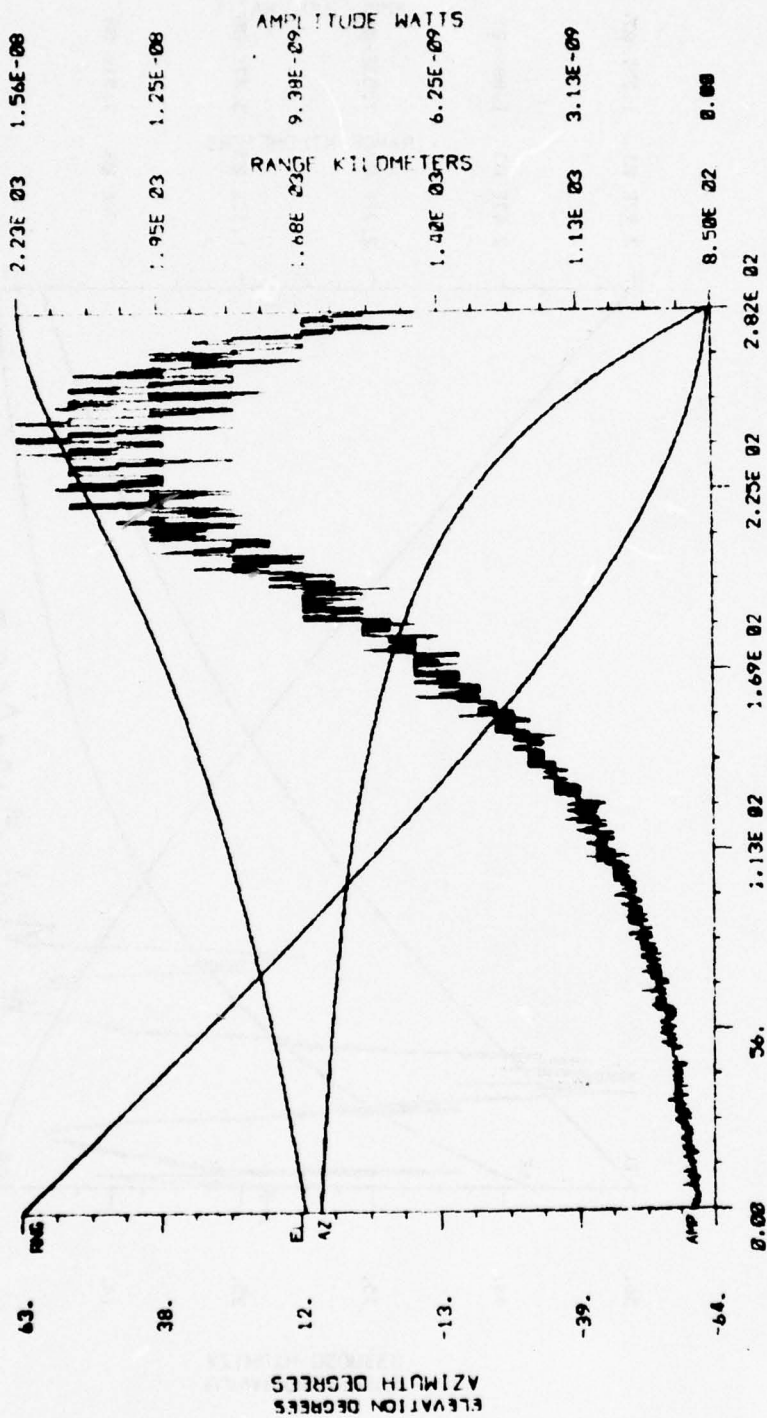
SEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 499
 TIME: FROM 261/ 4/35/21
 TO 261/ 4/41/ 0



TRACK # 1/28 SAT ID 2965 - TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-6

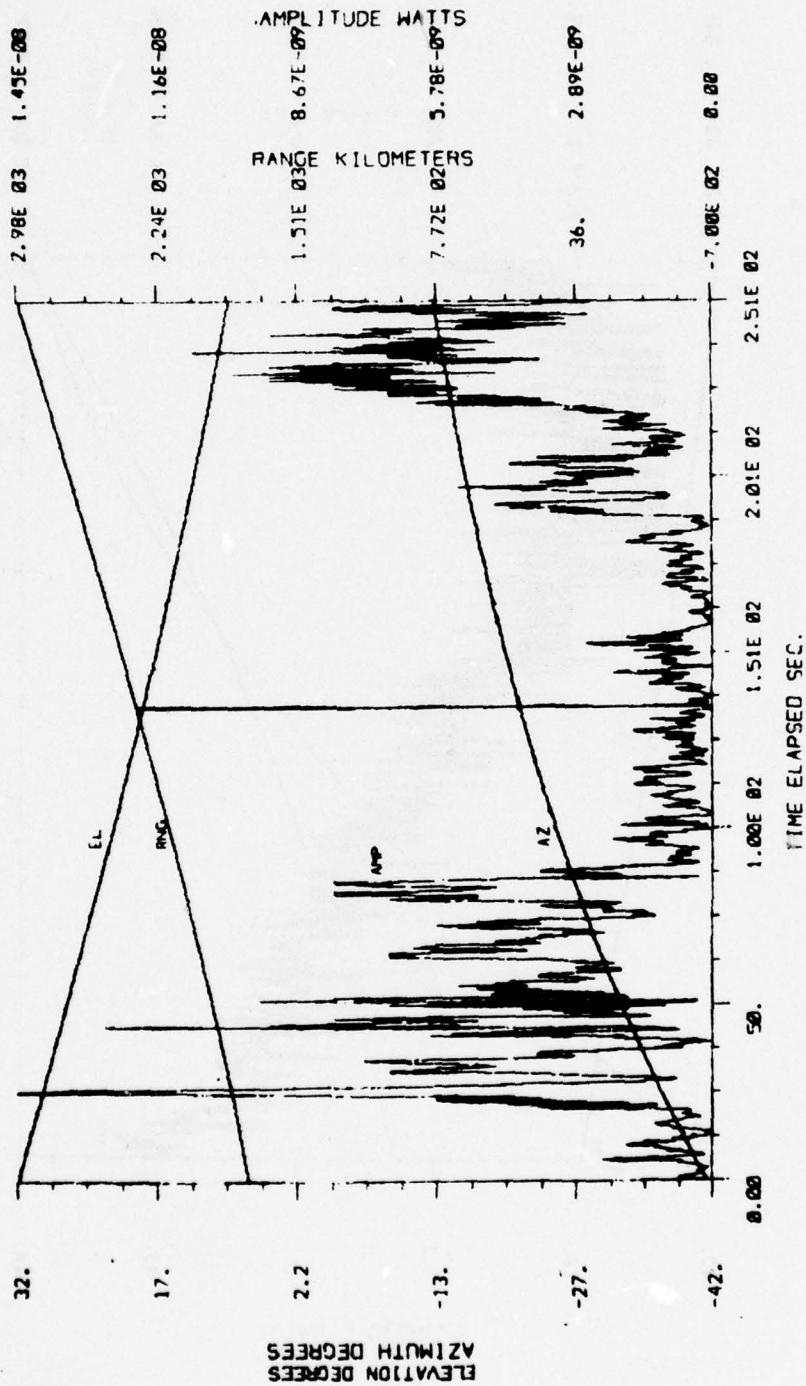
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 523
 TIME: FROM 261/ 4/44/ 7
 °C 261/ 4/46/48



TRACK # 1/32 SAT ID 4963 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-7

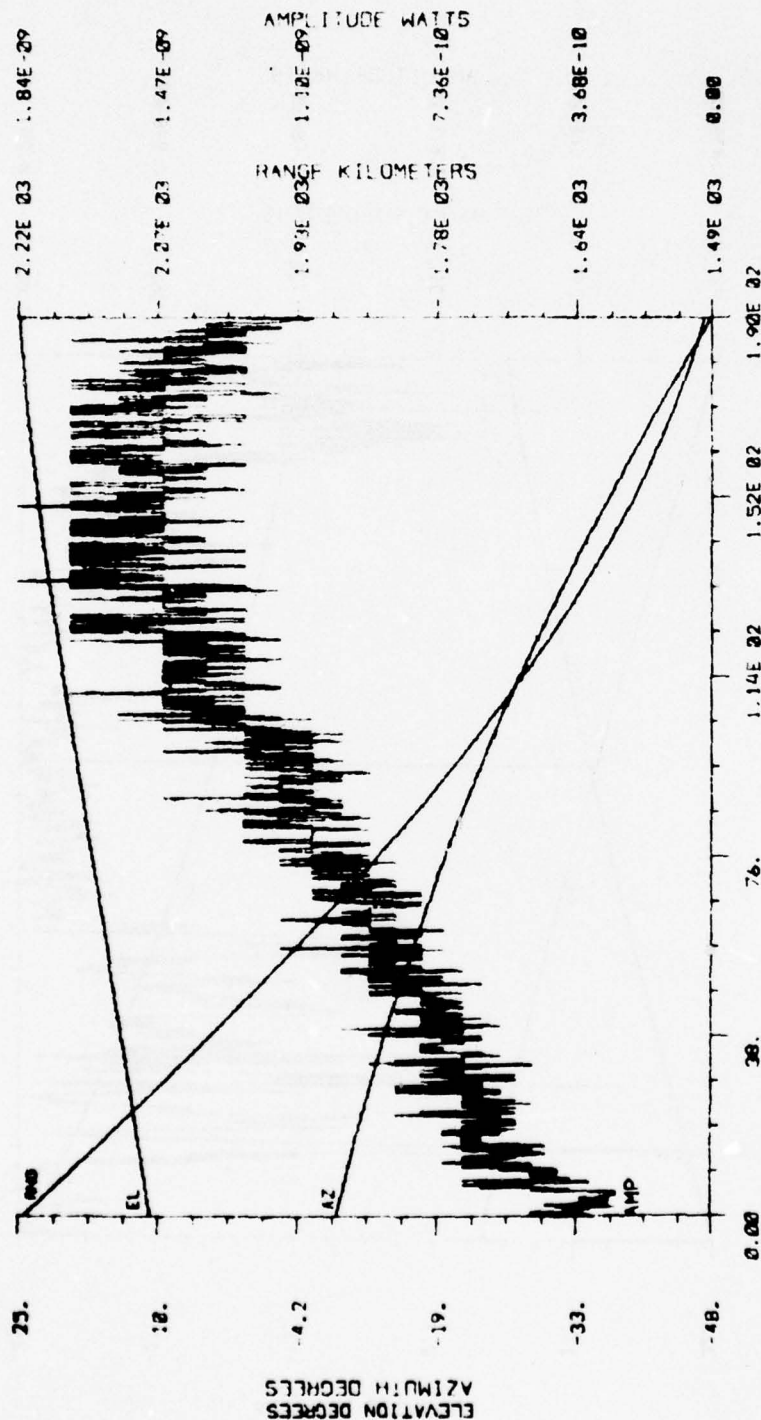
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 548
 TIME: FROM 261/ 4/53/59
 TO 261/ 4/58/10



TRACK # 1/36 SAT ID 2807 -- TP* PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-8

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 500
 TIME: FROM 261/ 5/49/ 5
 TO 261/ 5/52/15



TRACK # 1/40 SAT ID 4958 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-9

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 750
 TIME: FROM 261/ 6/ 7/53
 TO 261/ 6/ 9/50

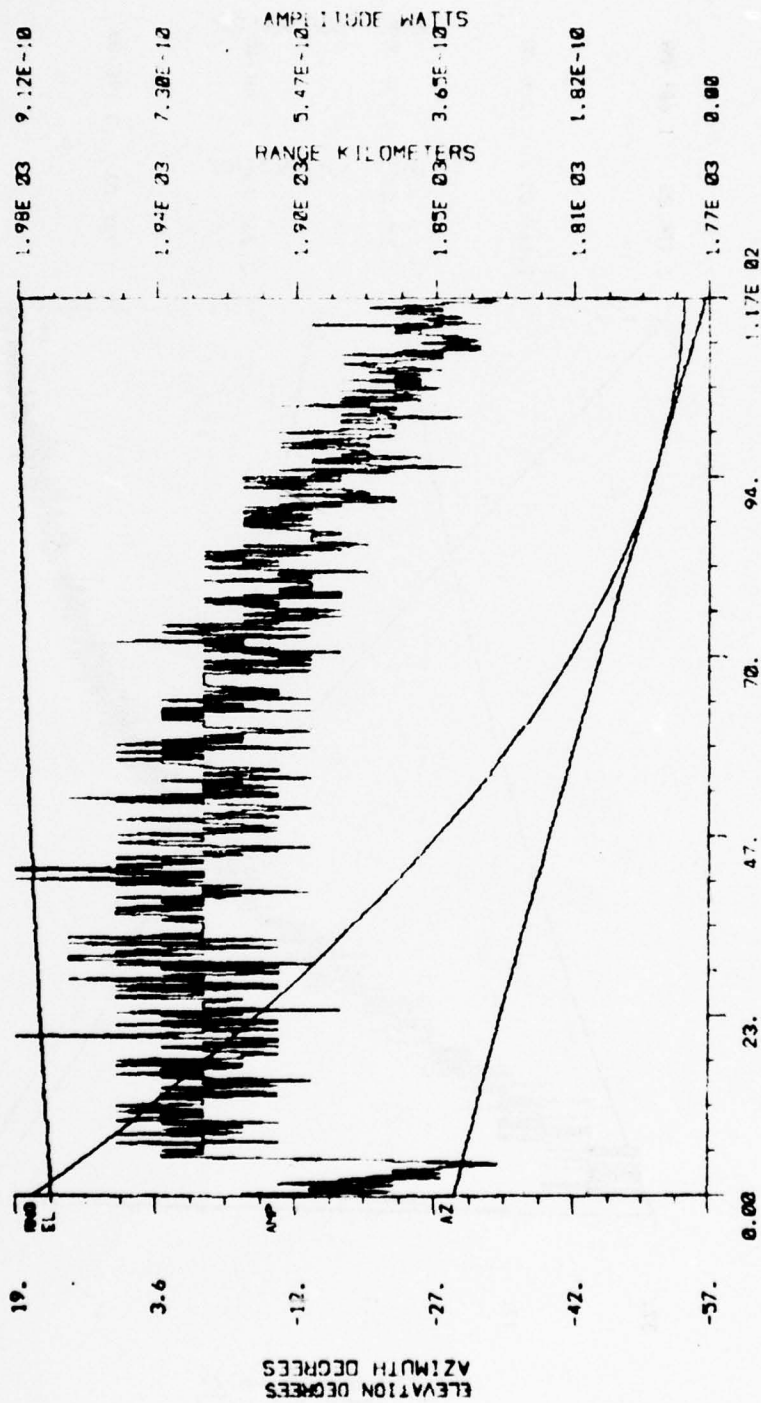
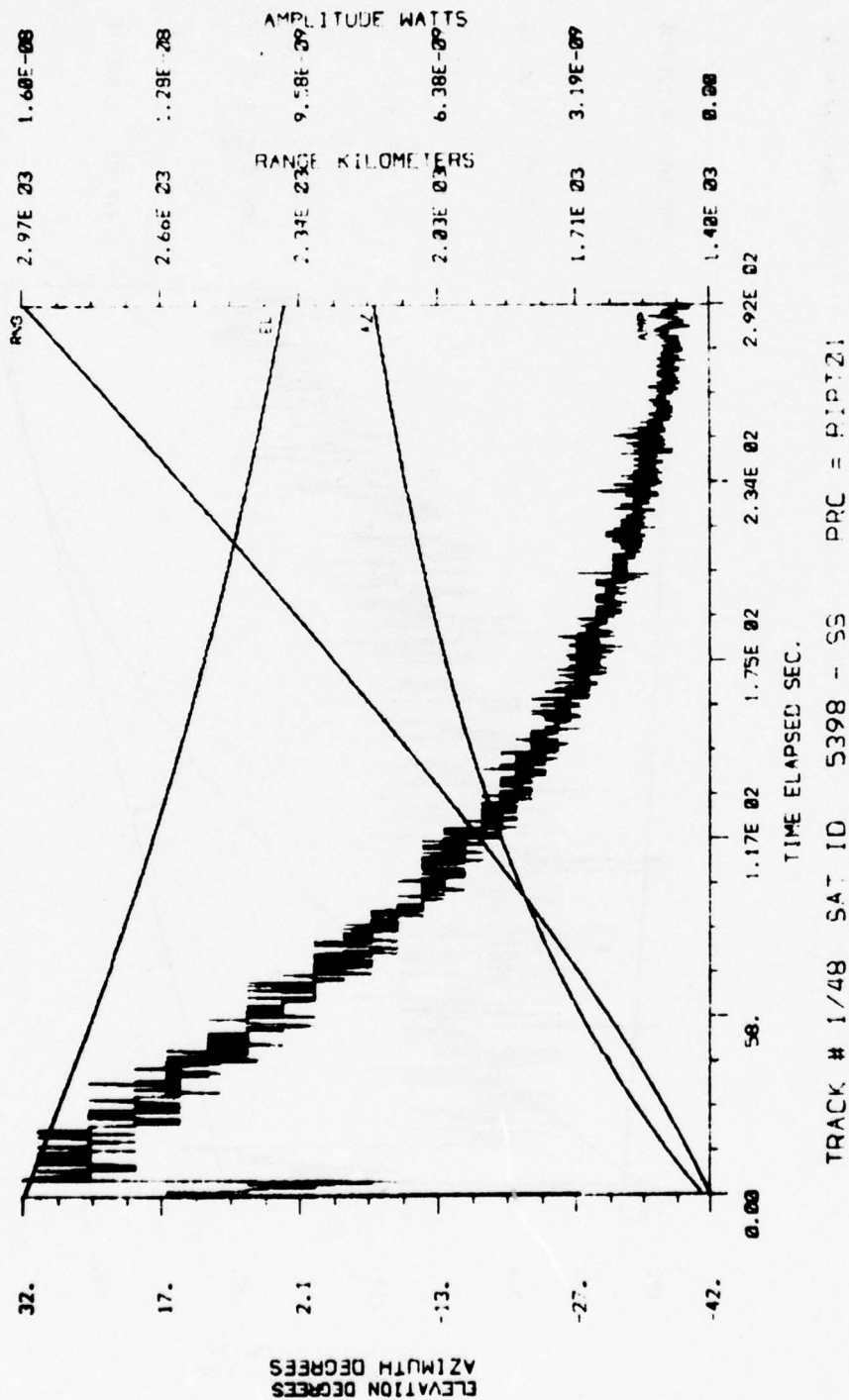


Figure A-10

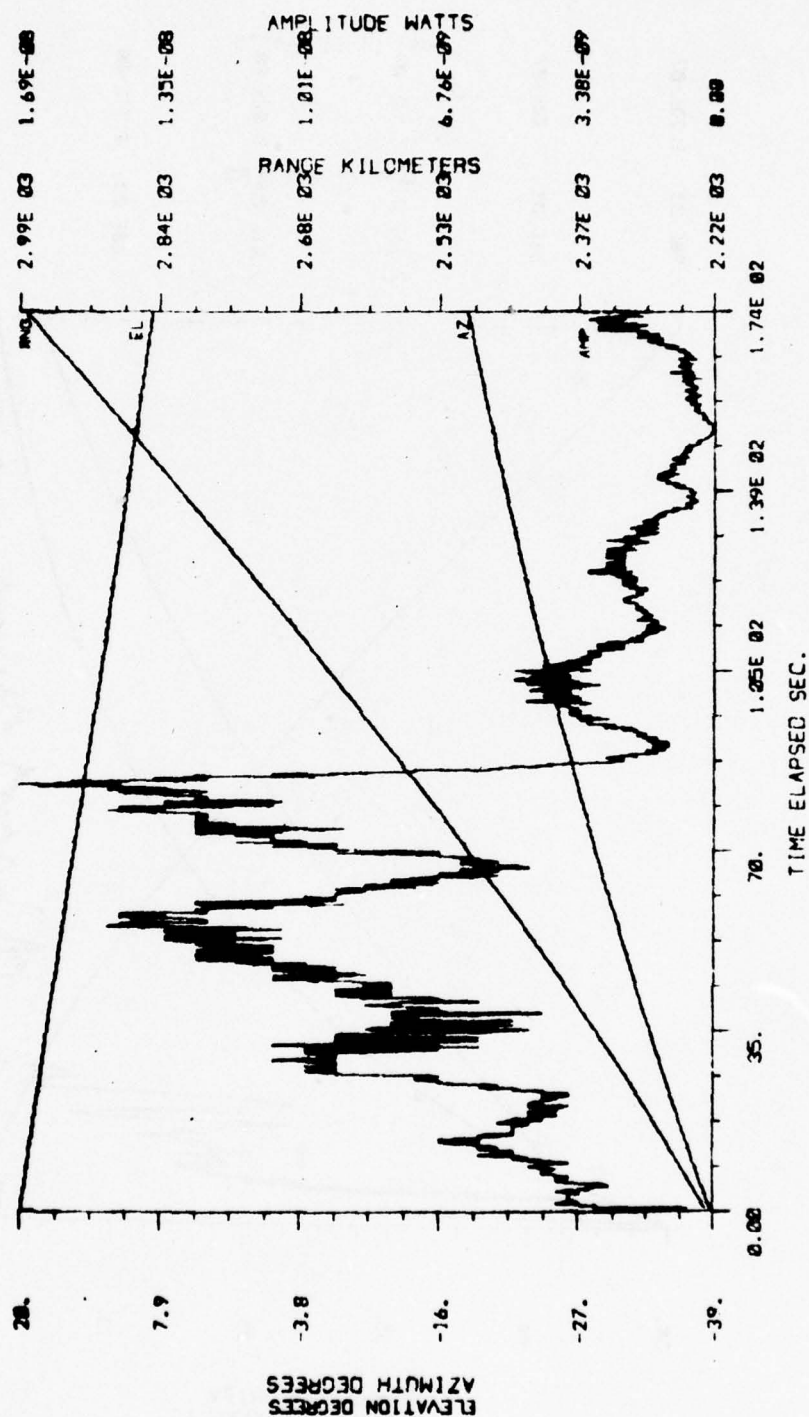
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 78
 TIME: FROM 261/ 6/18/ :
 TO 261/ 6/22/53



TRACK # 1/48 SAT ID 5398 - SS PRC = PIP21

Figure A-11

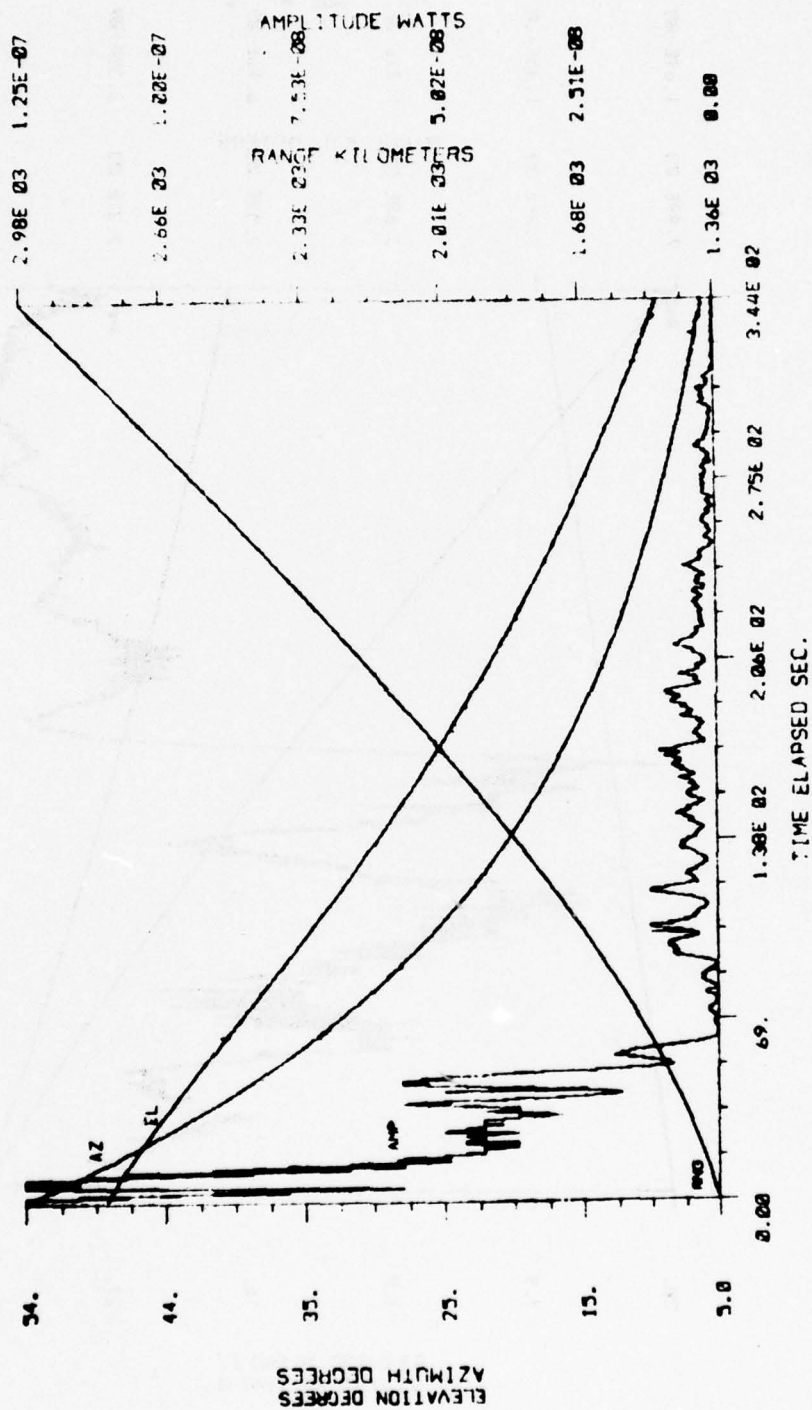
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 795
 TIME: FROM 261/ 6/24/38
 TO 261/ 6/27/24



TRACK # 1/52 SAT ID 2965 - TP* PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-12

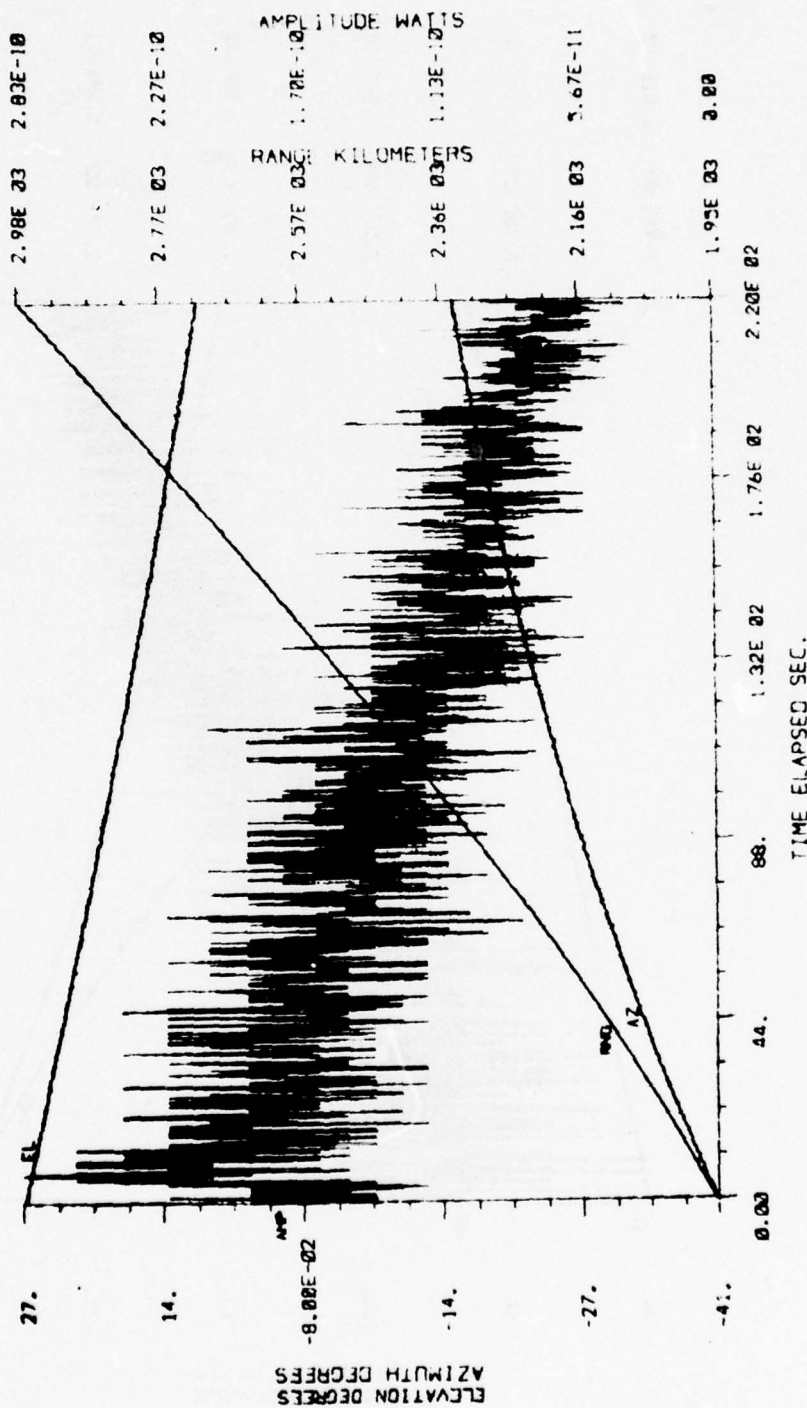
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 892
 TIME: FROM 20: 7/30/48
 TO 26: 7/30/48



TRACK # 1/56 SAT ID 2754 - 1P PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-13

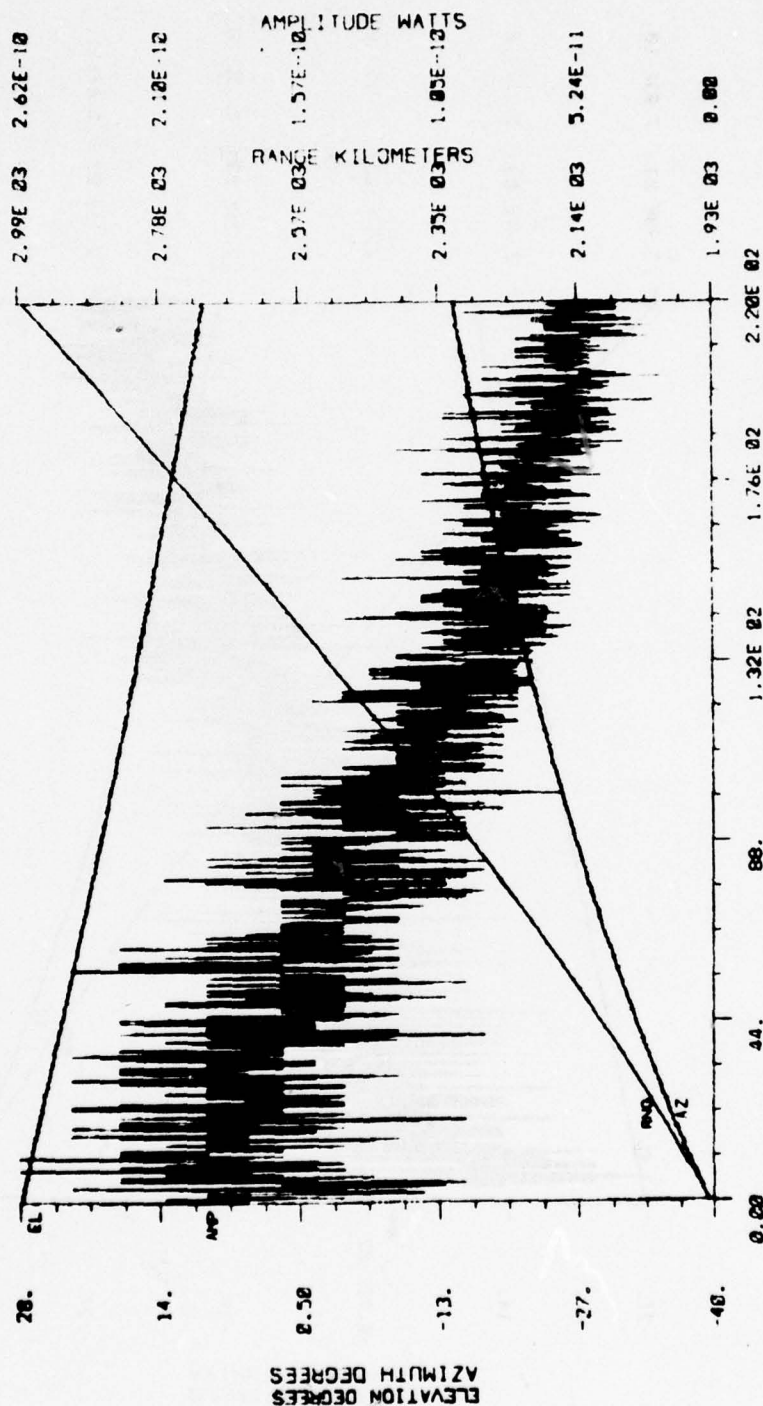
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 913
 TIME: FROM 261/ 7/38/46
 TO 261/ 7/42/26



TRACK # 1/60 SAT ID 1512 - SS PRC = R1P101

Figure A-14

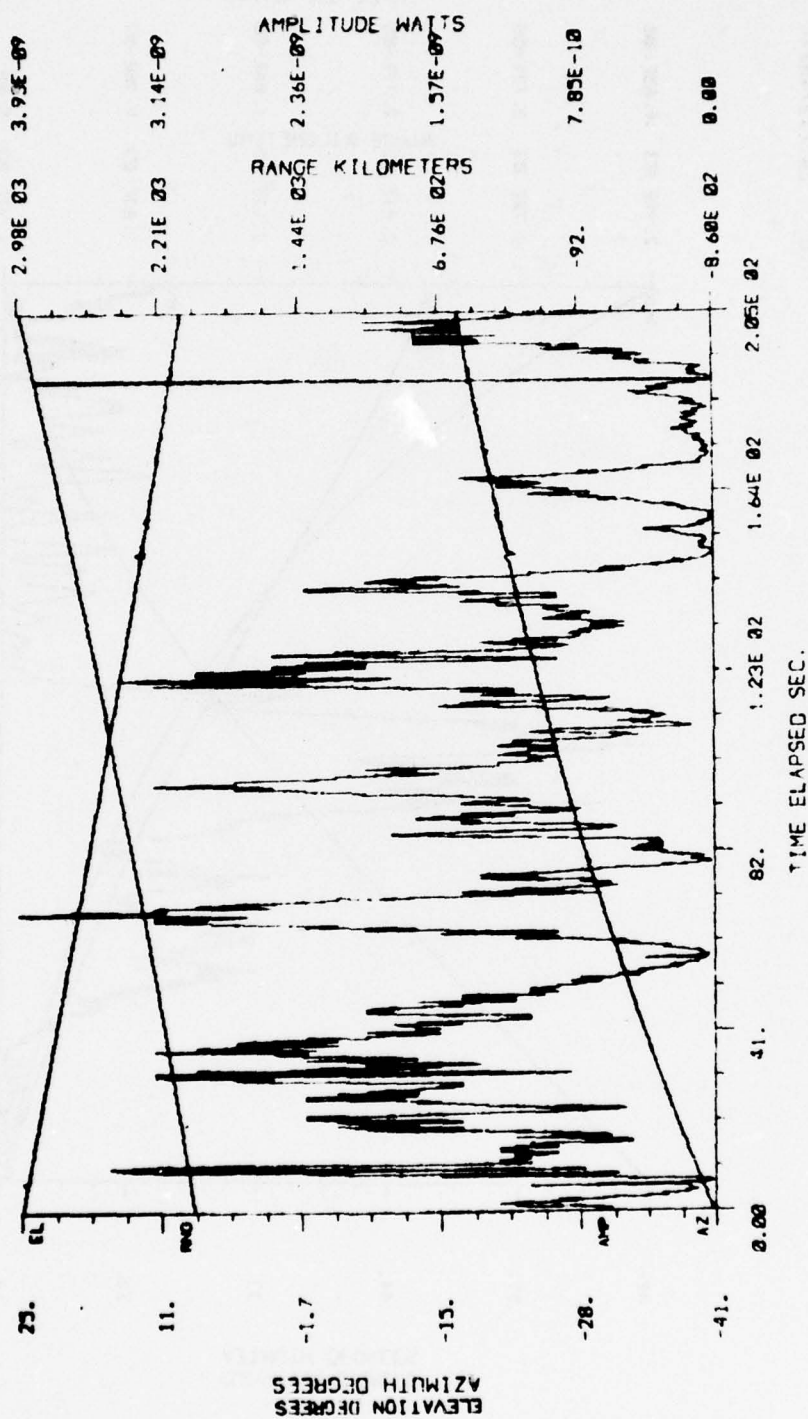
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 932
 TIMES FROM 761/ 7/45/46
 °C 261/ 7/49/26



TRACK # 1/64 SAT ID 1520 - SS PRC = R1PT0:

Figure A-15

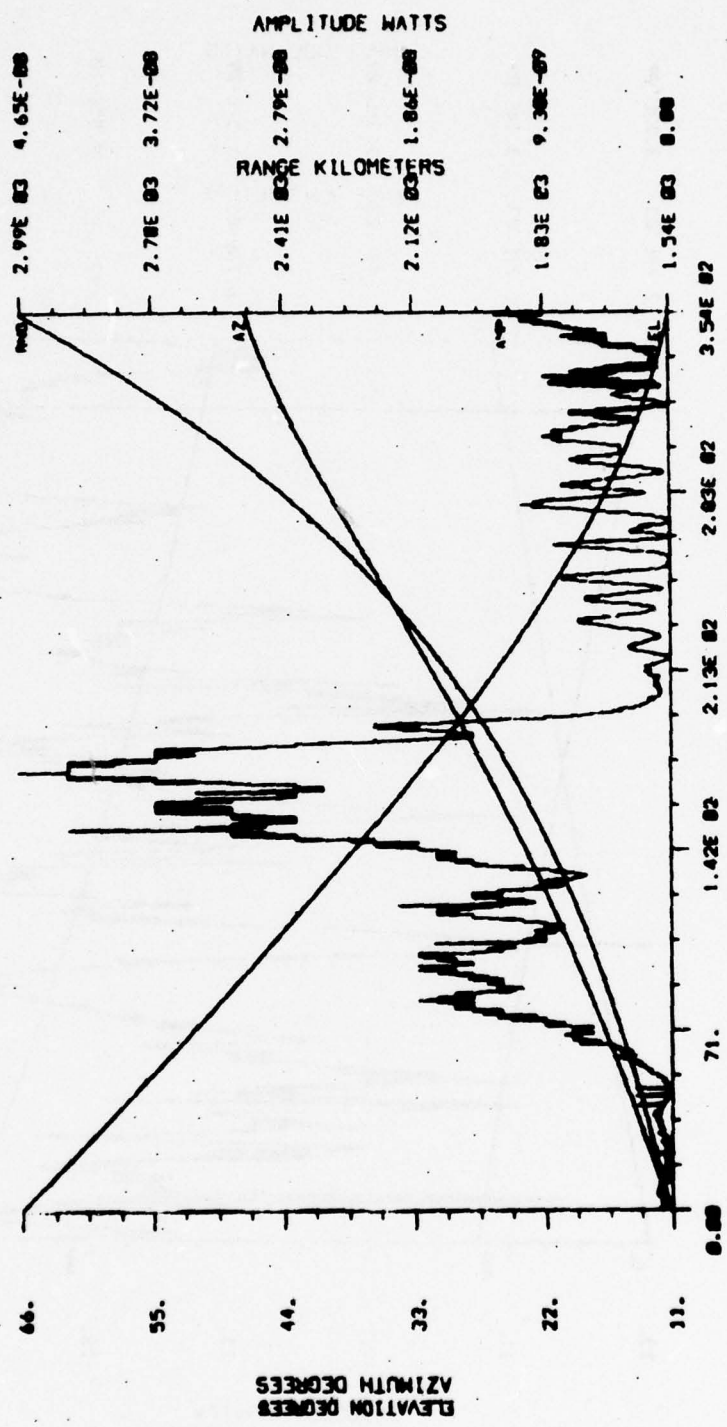
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1102
 TIME: FROM 261/ 9/19/ 8
 TO 261/ 9/22/33



TRACK # 1/08 SAT ID 2754 - TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-16

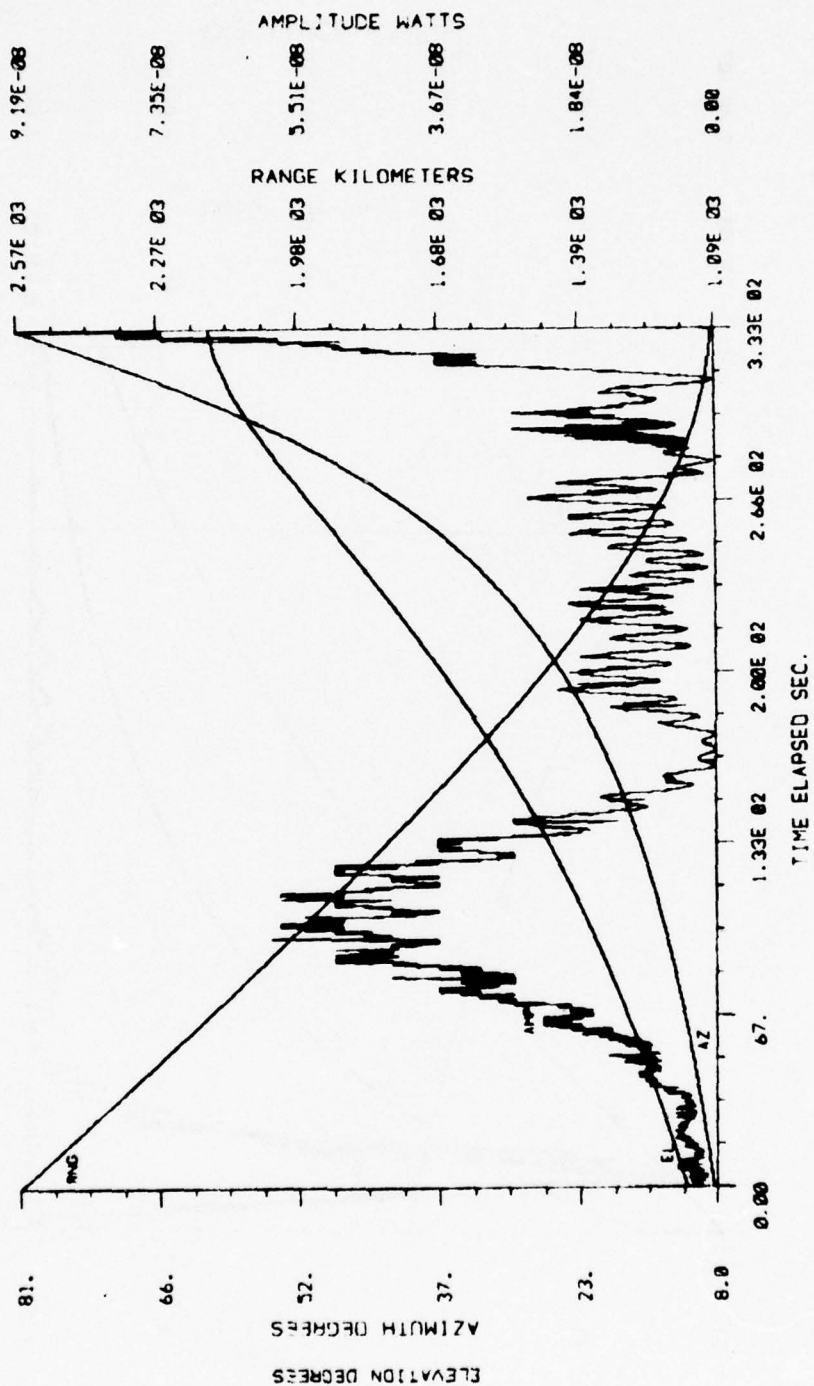
BEAMS: CENTER
 SCANS: 1309
 TIME: FROM 261/18/34/59
 TO 261/18/48/44



TRACK # 1/72 SAT ID 4507 - TP* PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-17

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 148
 TIME: FROM 270/ 1/41/50
 TO 270/ 1/47/49



TRACK # 2/02 SAT ID 6909 - TP PRC = RIPT01

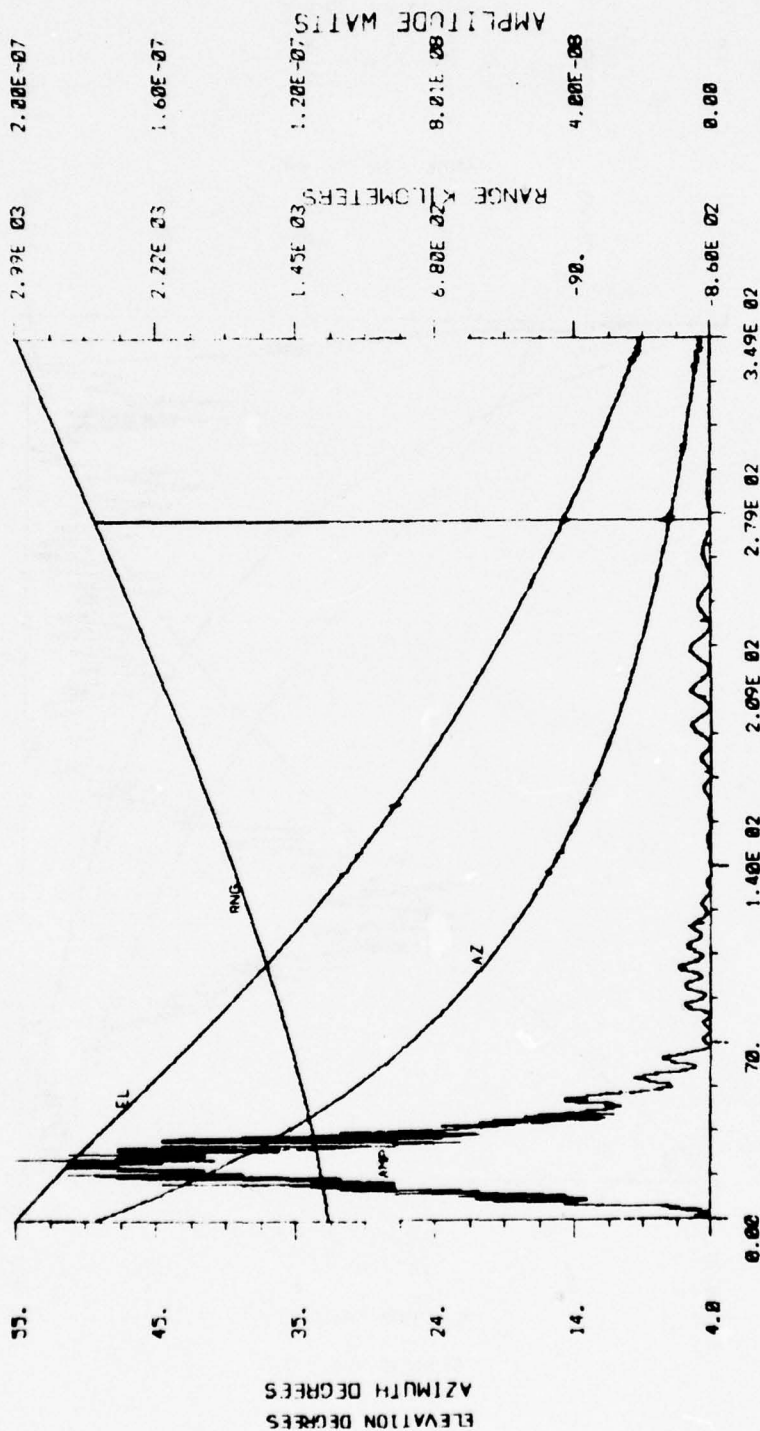
Figure A-18

BEAMS CENTER

SCANS 007

TIME: 27/ 2/53/17

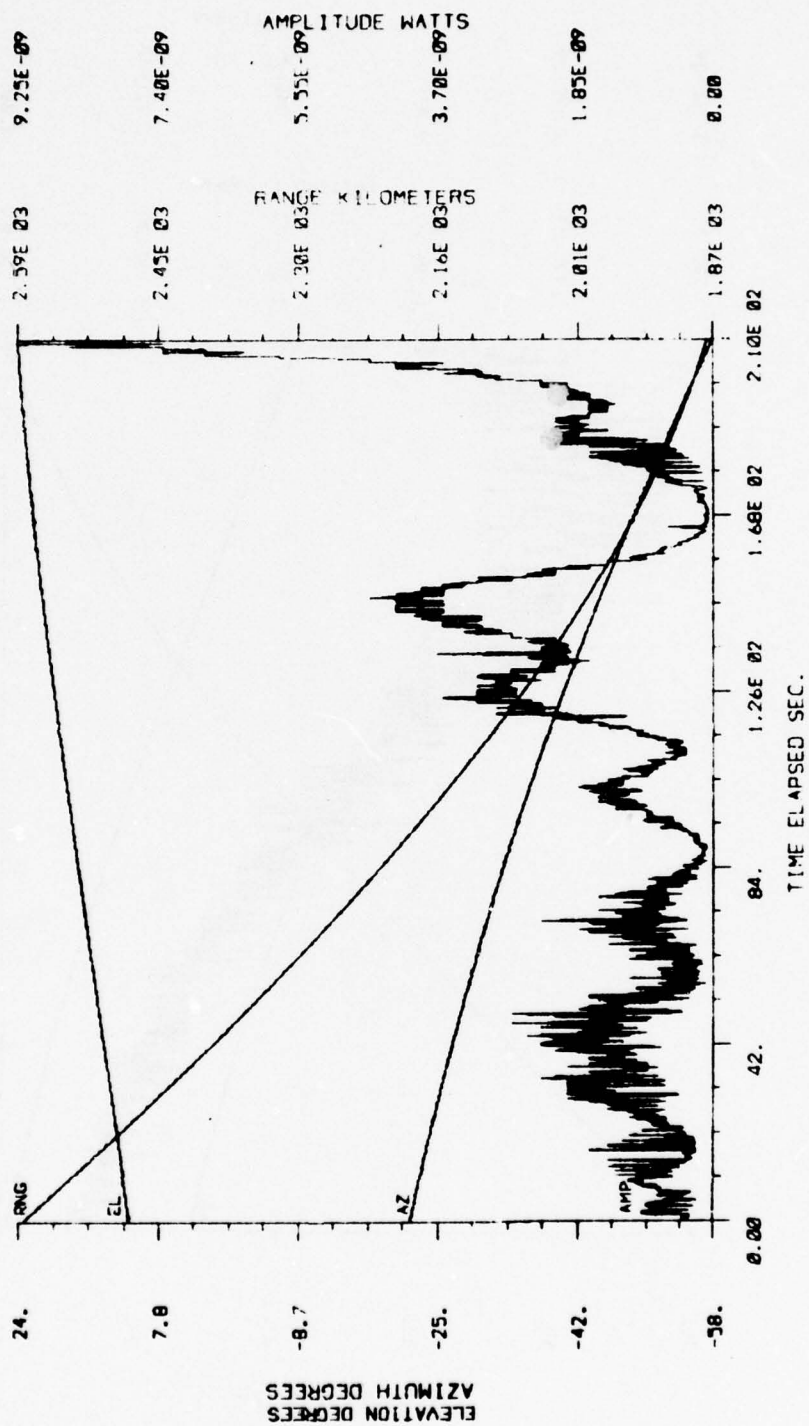
15 27/ 2/59/ 5



TRACK # 2/06 SAT ID 2807 - TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-19

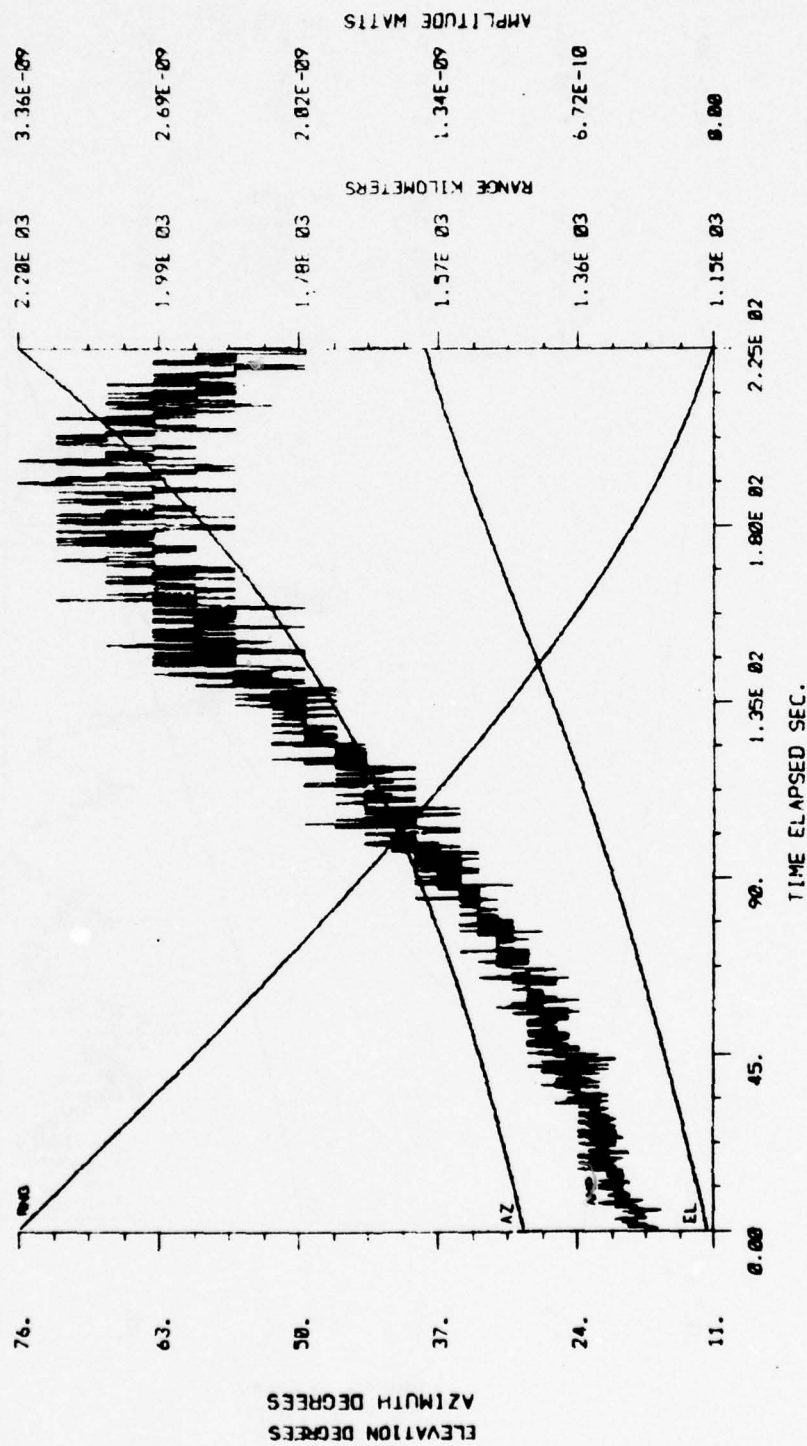
BEAM: CENTER
 GRAV: 982
 TIME: +RCH 270/ 3/28/ 1
 TO 272/ 3/31/30



TRACK # 2/10 SAT ID 6909 - TP PRC = R1PT01

Figure A-20

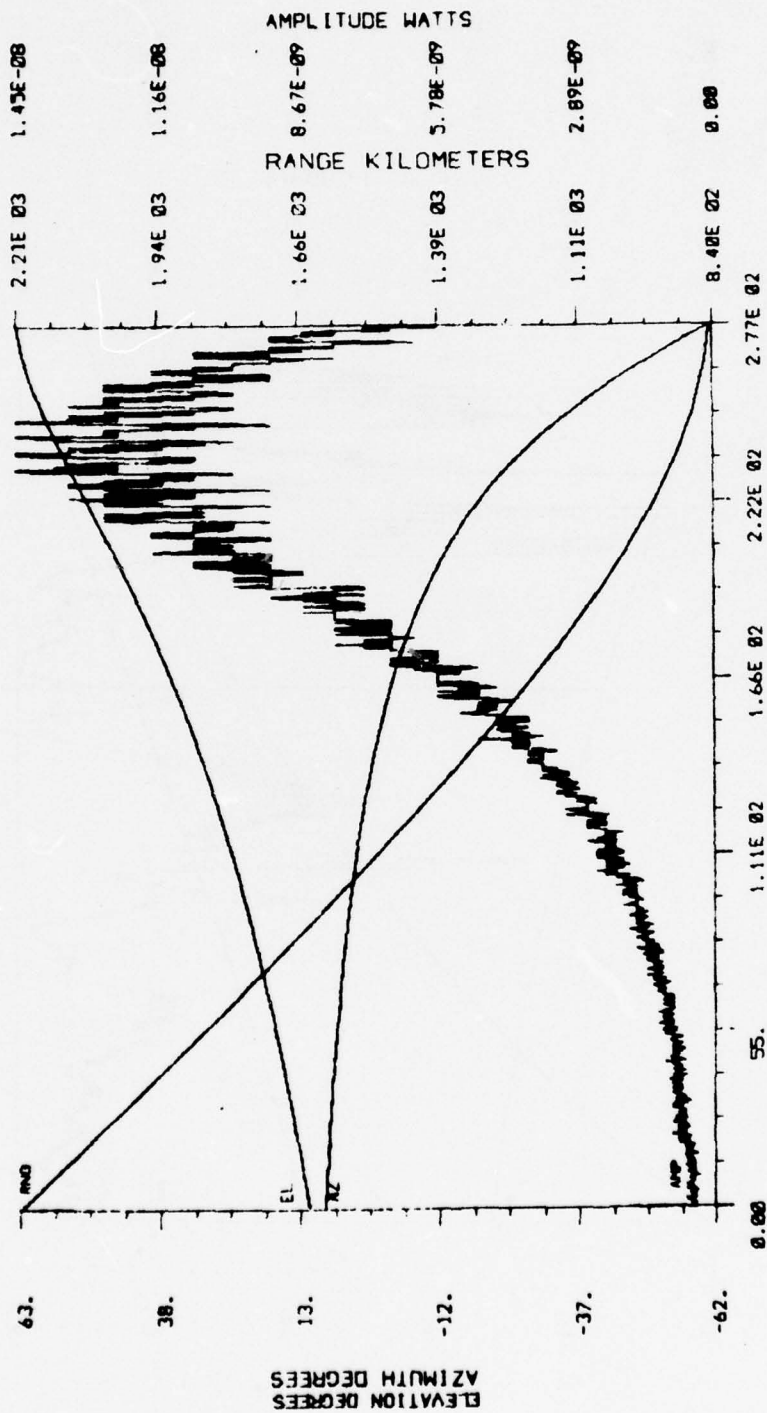
BLANK CENTER
 SLAVE 422
 TIME FROM 272/3/43 S:
 TO 272/3/47/30



TRACK # 2/14 SAT ID 4963 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-21

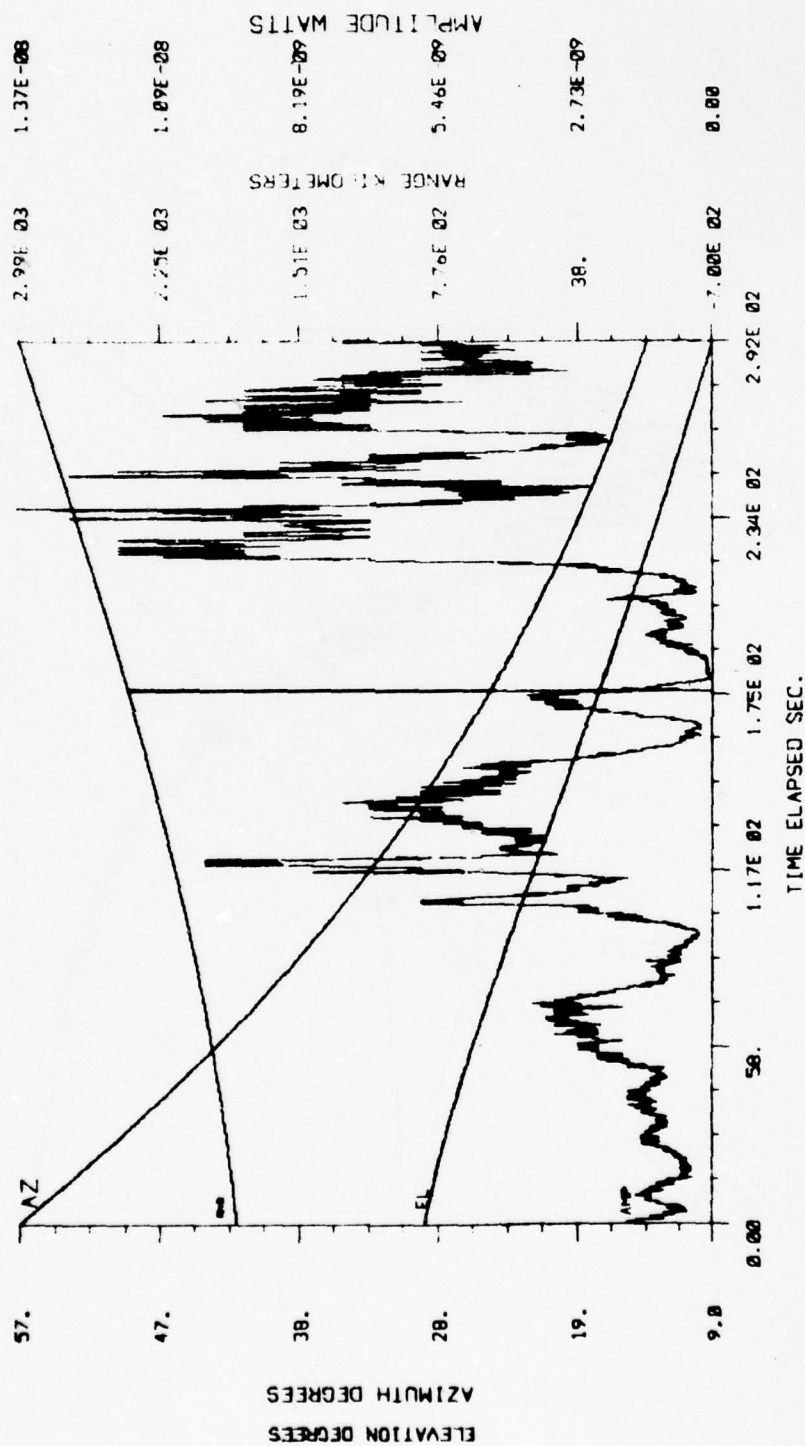
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 456
 TIME: FROM 270/ 4/55/27
 TO 270/ 5/ 0/ 4



TRACK # 2/18 SAT ID 4957 - SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-22

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 533
 TIME: FROM 2/21 6/22/59
 TO 2/21 6/25/51



TRACK # 2/22 SAT ID 2754 - TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-23

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1208
 TIME: FROM 270/ 8/ 7/41
 TO 270/ 8/12/38

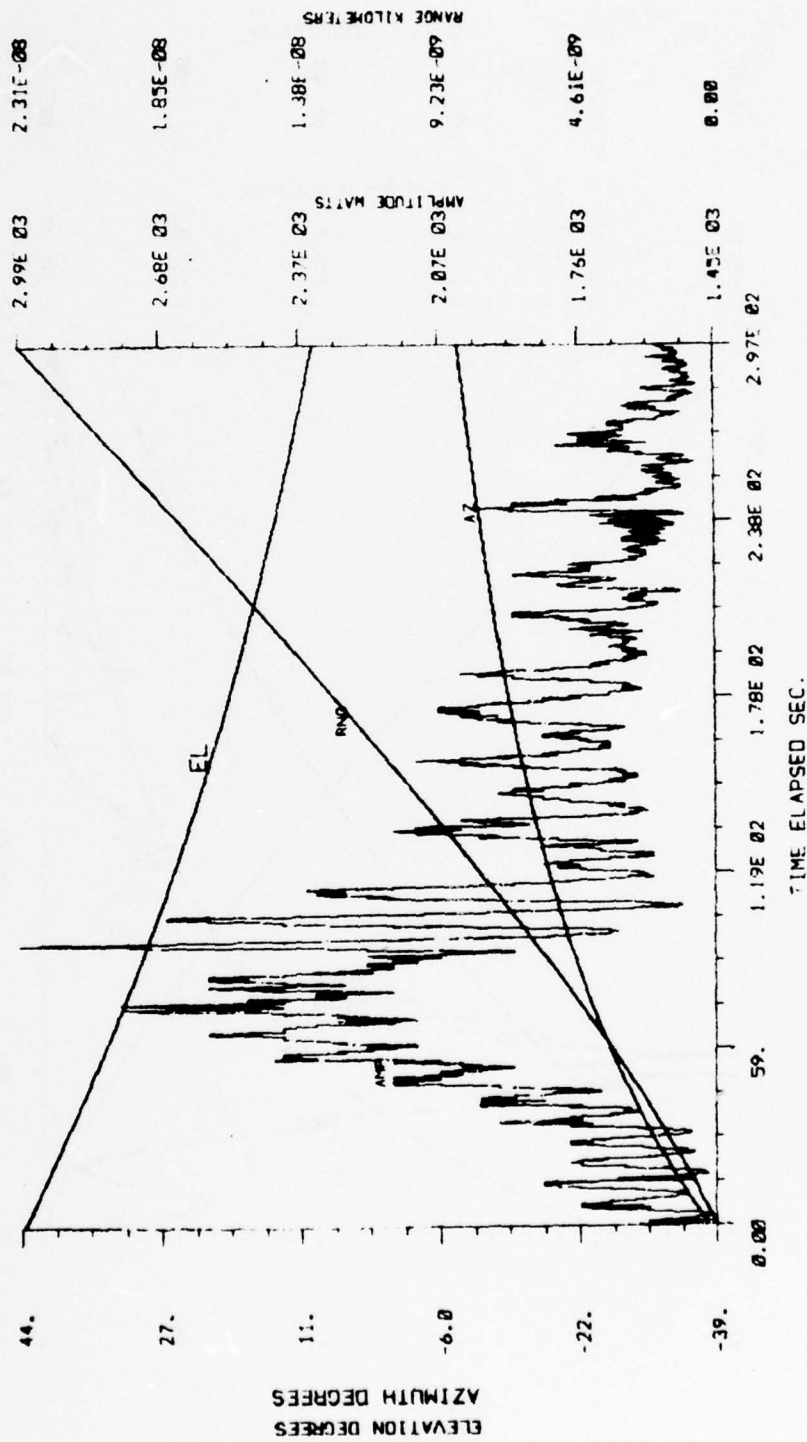
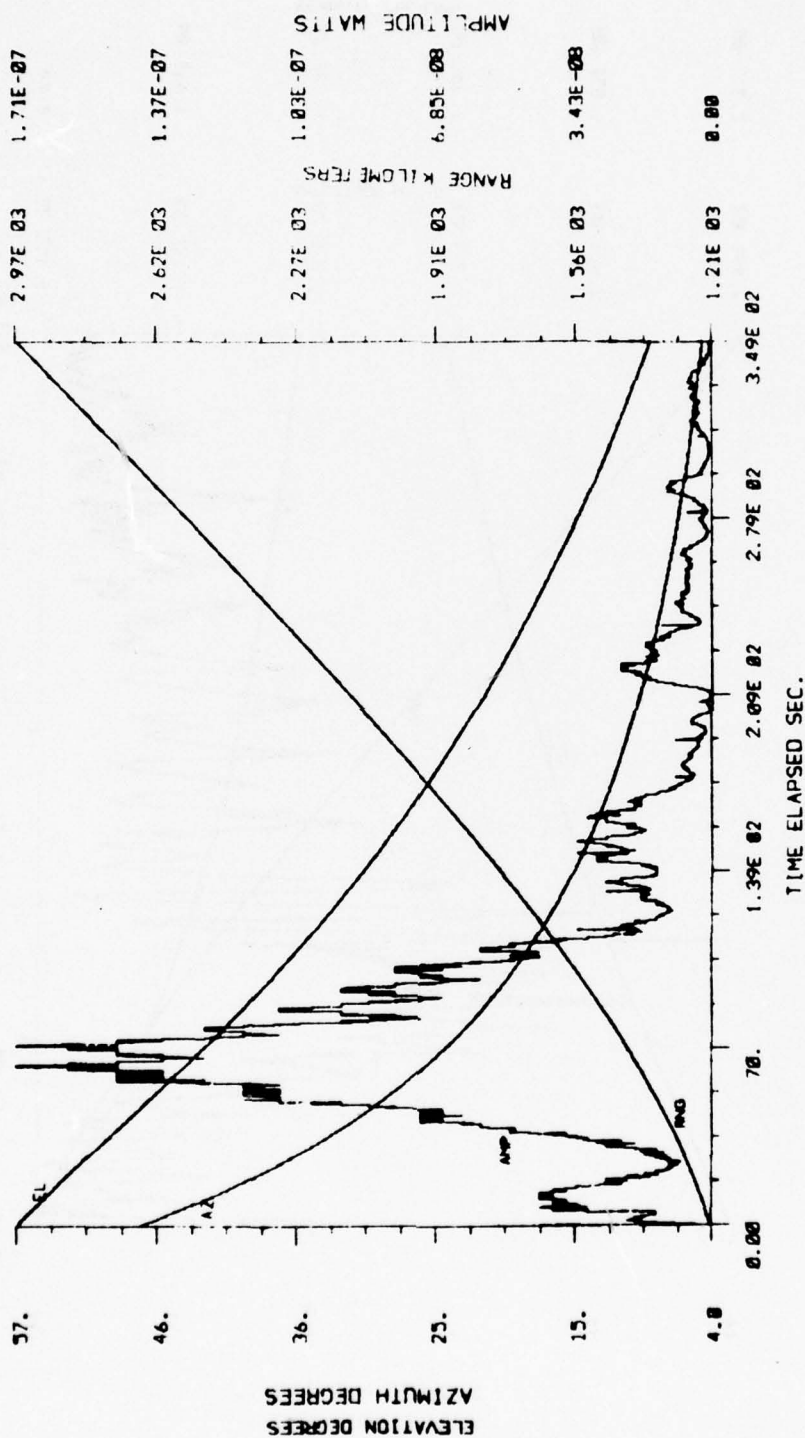


Figure A-24

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1893
 TIME: FROM 270/ 3/58/ 1
 TO 270/ 4/ 3/49



TRACK # 2/33 SAT ID 2965 - TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-25

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1242
 TIME: FROM 270/ 6/15/ 6
 TO 270/ 6/17/49

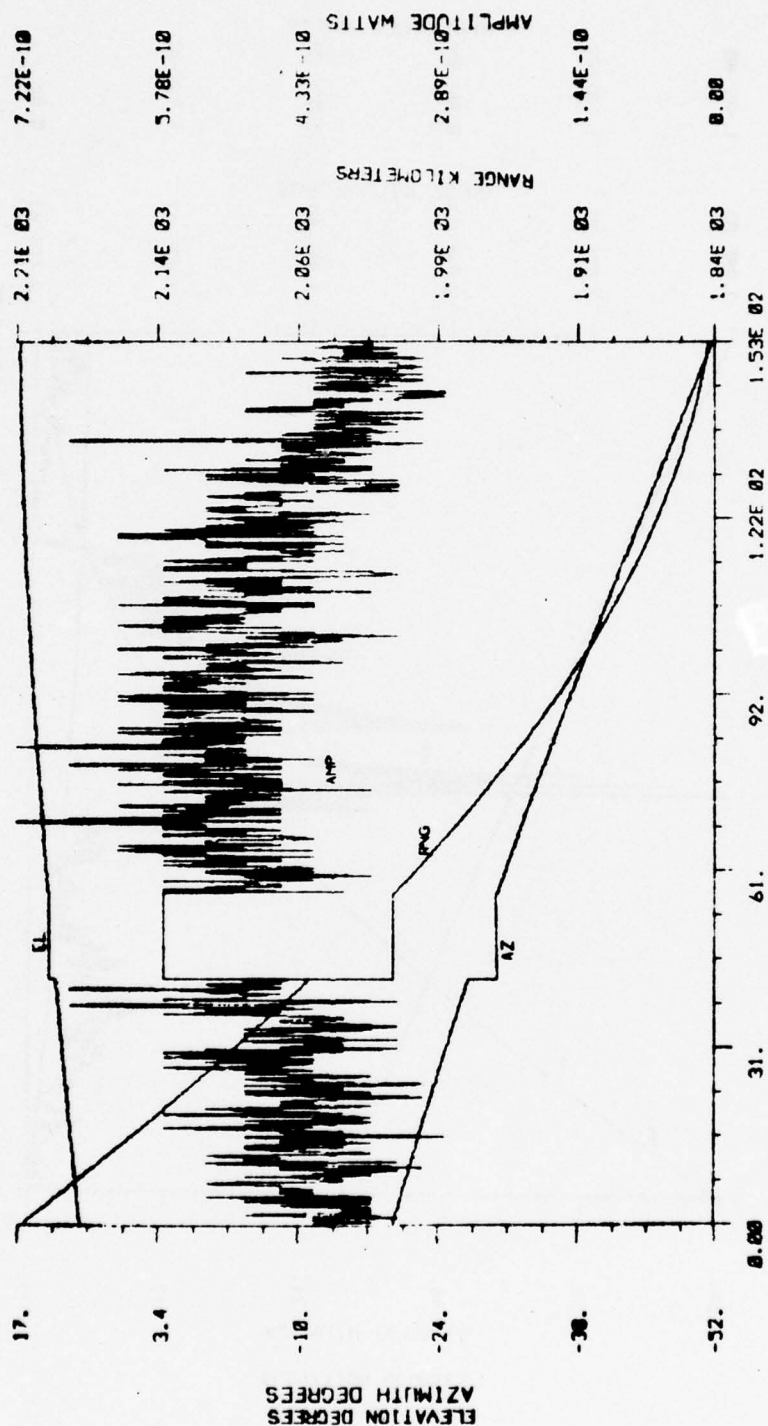
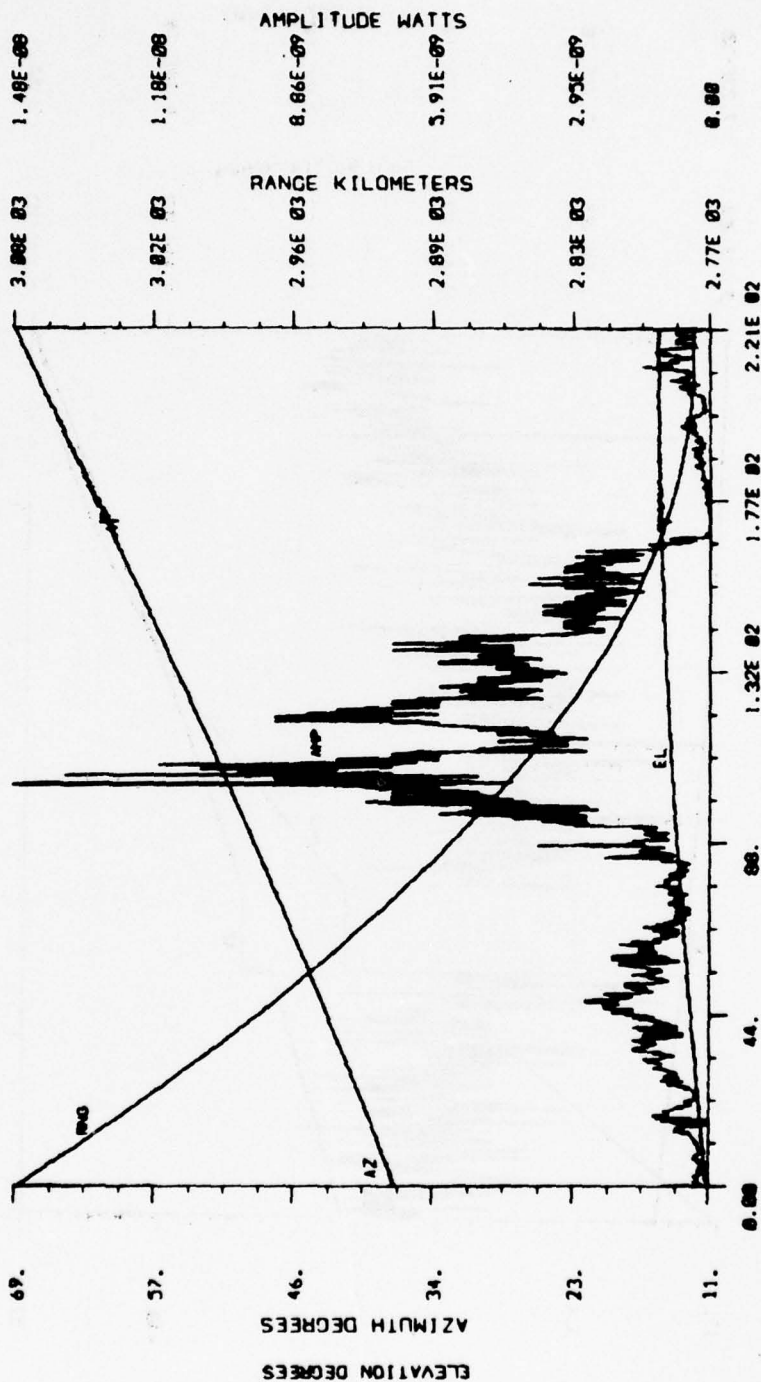


Figure A-26

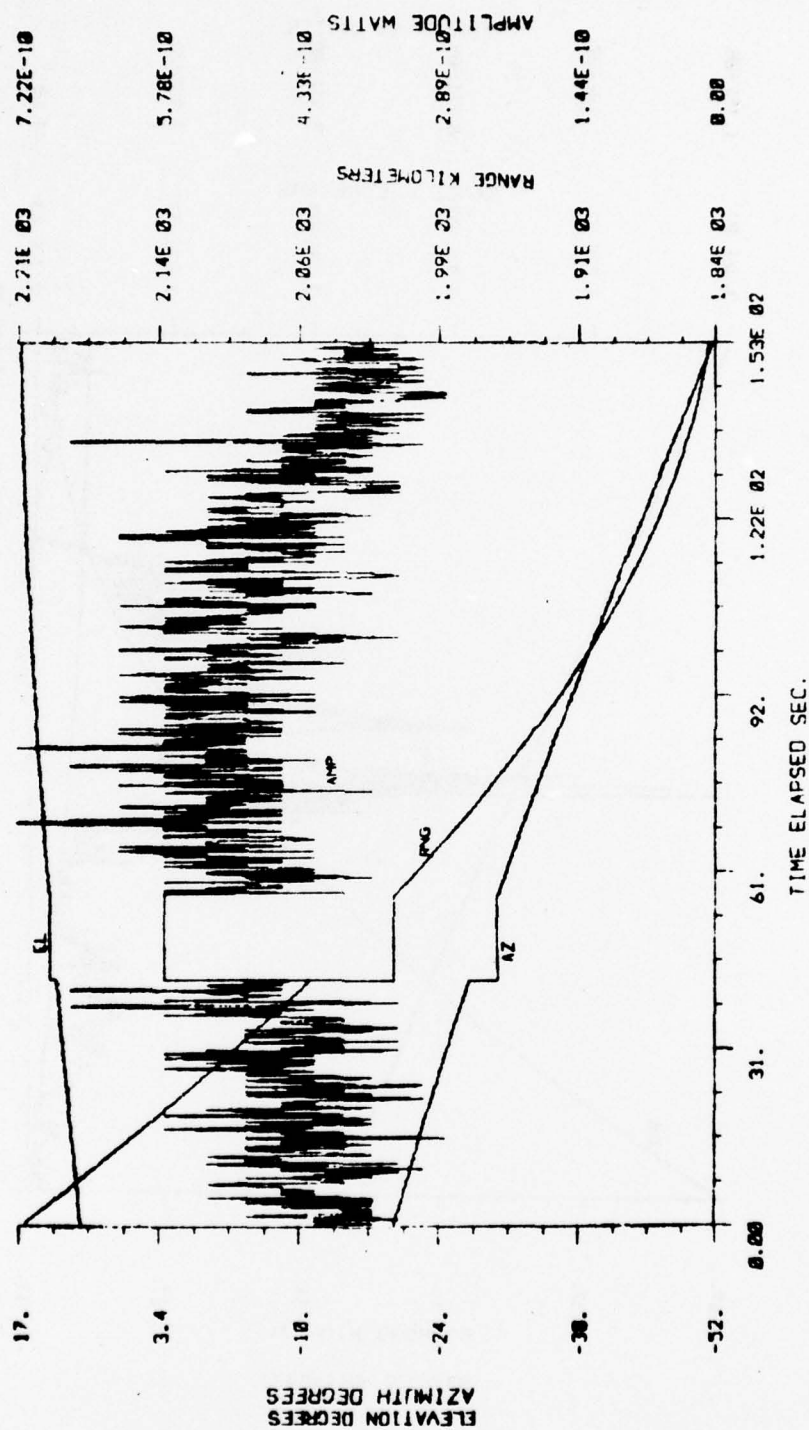
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1369
 TIME: FROM 270/ 8/40/25
 TO 270/ 8/44/ 5



TRACK # 2/43 SAT ID 4507 - TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-27

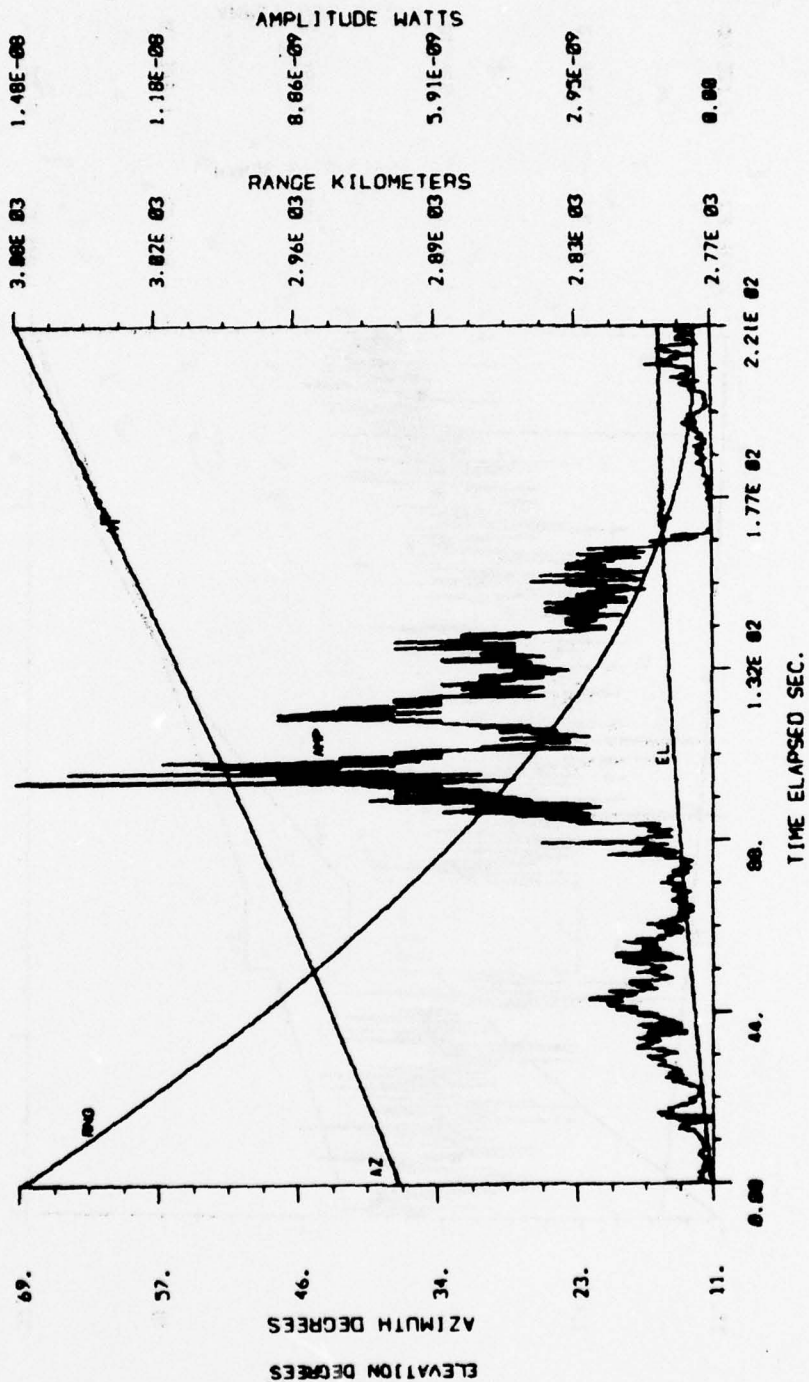
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 1242
 TIME: FROM 270/ 6/15/ 6
 TO 270/ 6/17/49



TRACK # 2/40 SAT ID 4958 - SS PRC = R1P101

Figure A-26

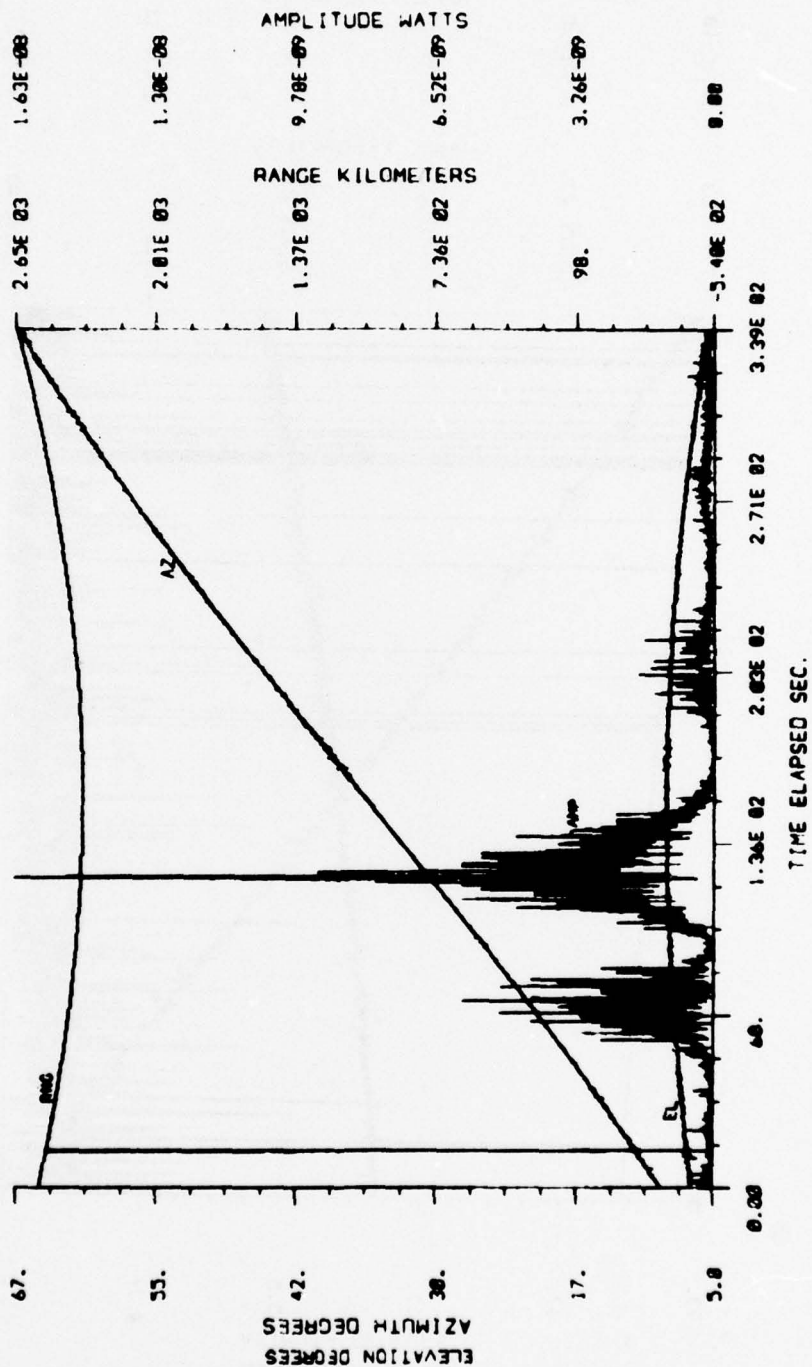
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1369
 TIME: FROM 270/ 8/40/Z5
 TO 270/ 8/44/ 5



TRACK # 2/43 SAT ID 4507 - TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-27

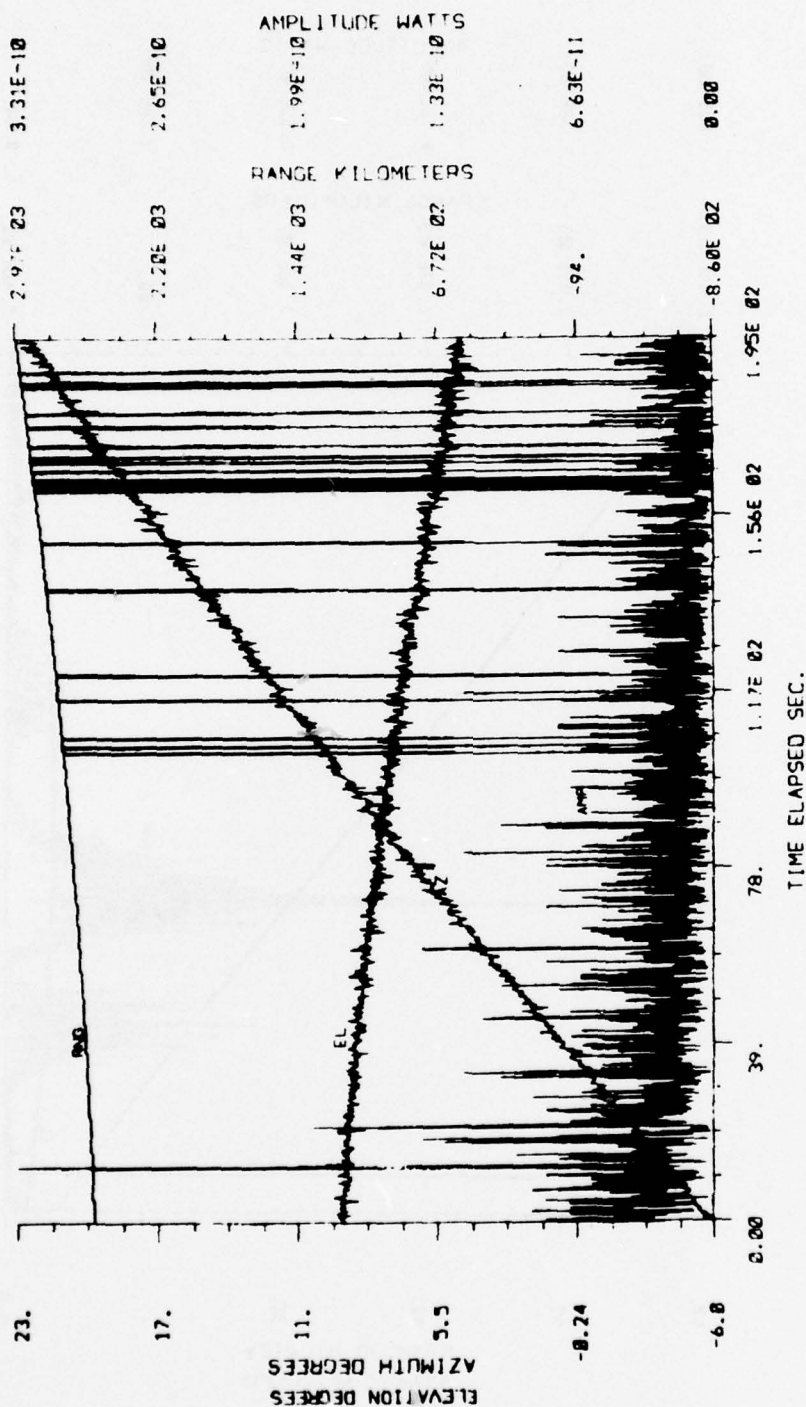
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 2011
 TIME: FROM 86/ 5/ 3/42
 TO 86/ 5/ 9/23



TRACK # 4/10 SAT ID 4958-SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-28

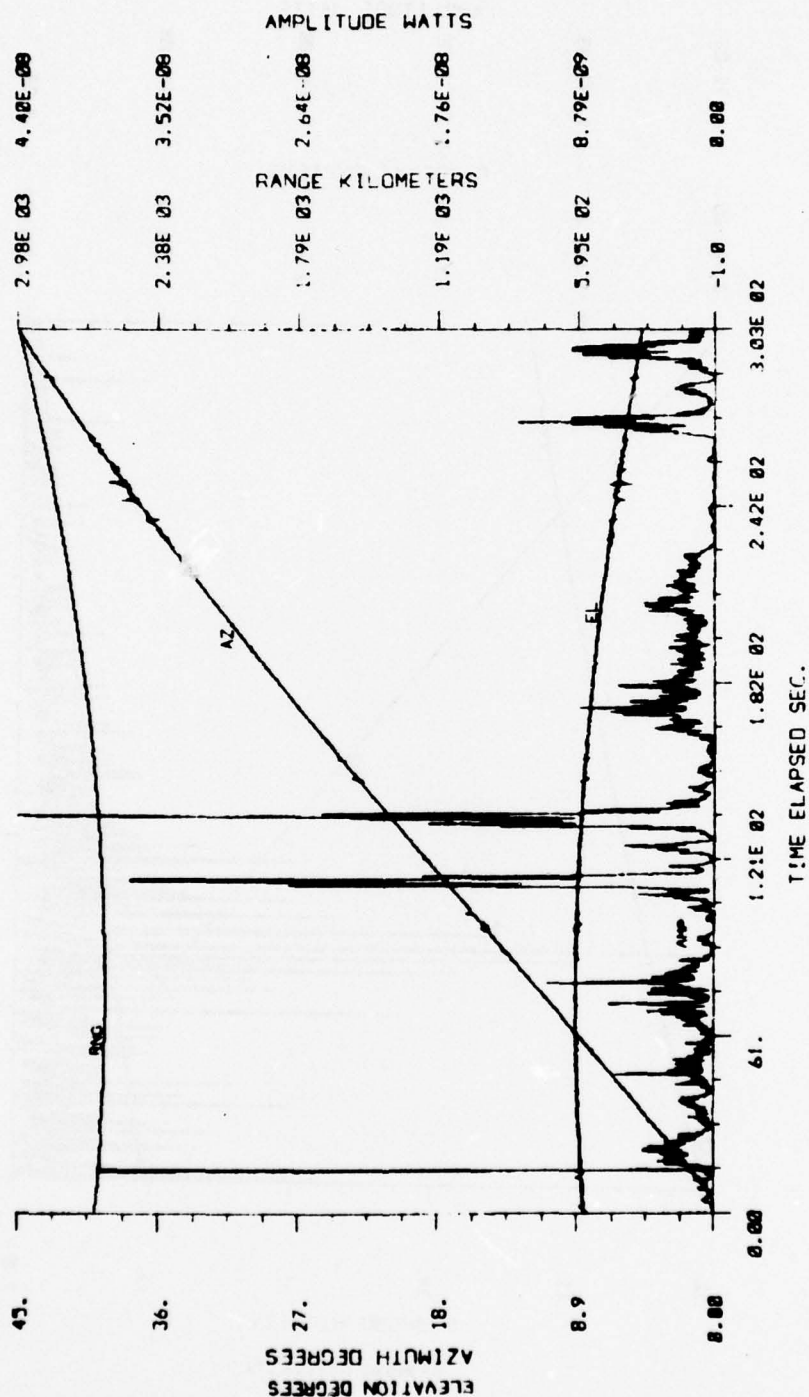
BEAMS CENTER
 SCANS 2000
 TIME: FROM 867 5/45/42
 TO 867 5/48/54



TRACK # 4/14 SAT ID 4957-SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-29

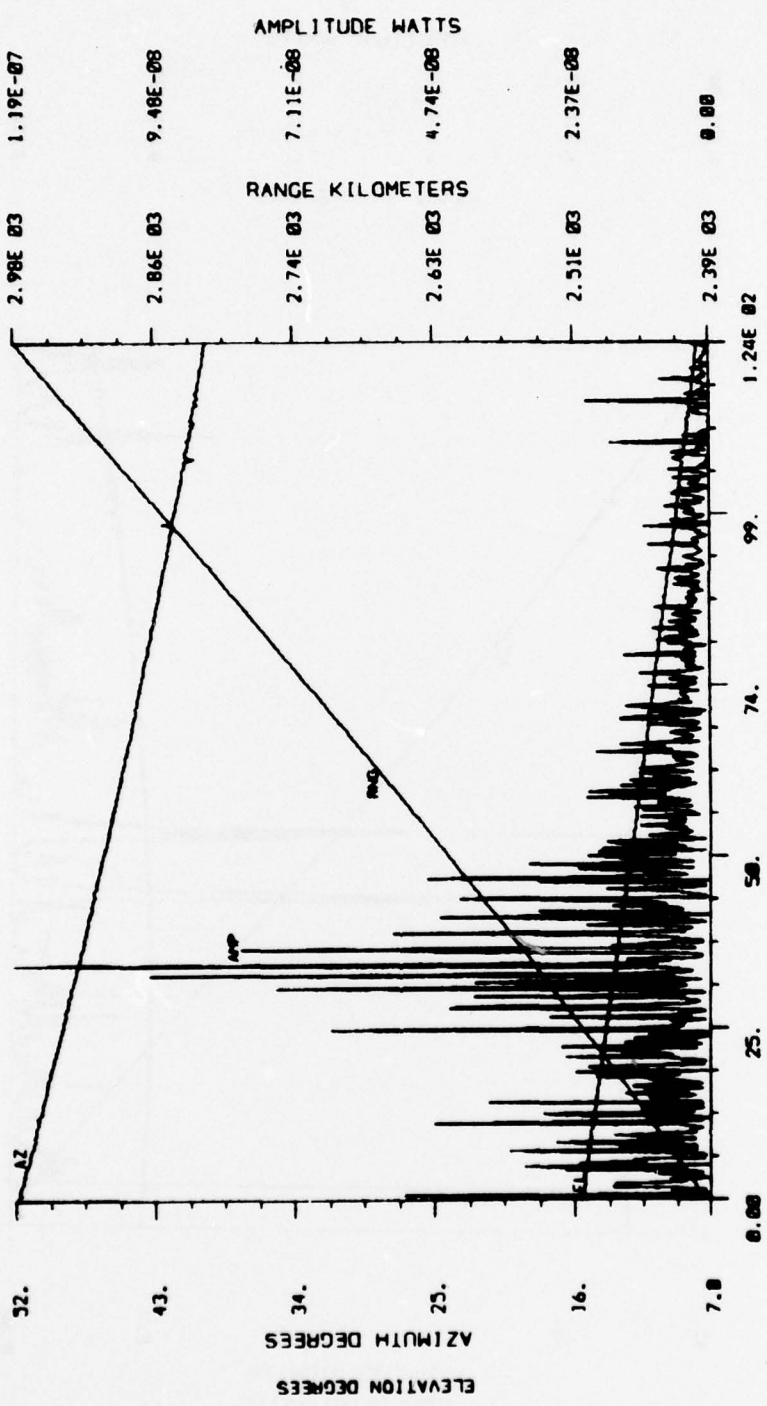
BFAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 5215
 TIME: ROM
 86/ 8/48/34
 86/ 8/53/37



TRACK # 4/26 SAT ID 2909-SS PRC = RIPT01
 TIME ELAPSED SEC.

Figure A-30

BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 5043
 TIME: FROM 86/ 9/ 2/37
 TO 86/ 9/ 4/40



TRACK # 4/30 SAT ID 4507-TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-31

BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 1
 TIME: FROM 113/ 5/ 4/56
 TO 113/ 5/ 7/30

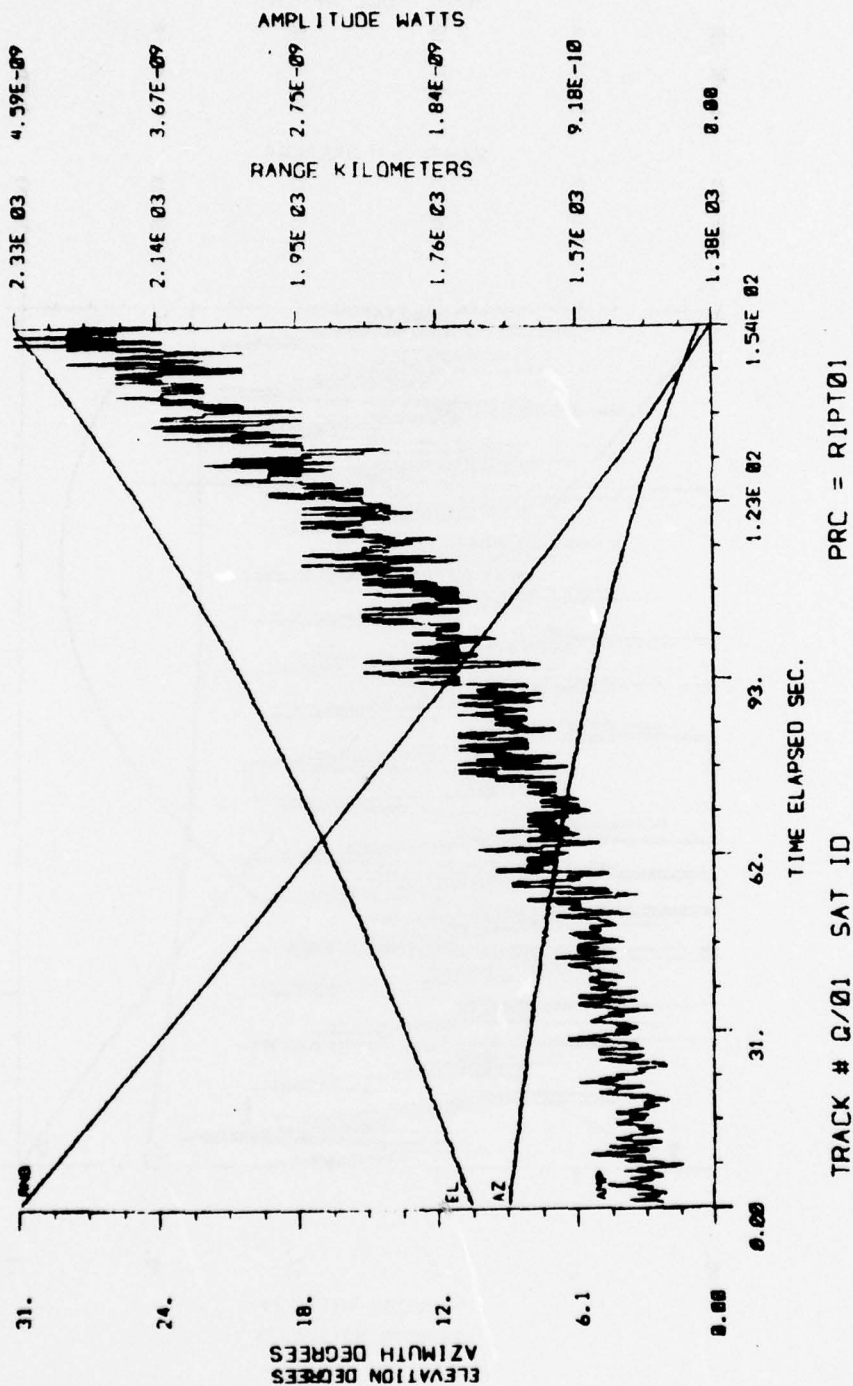
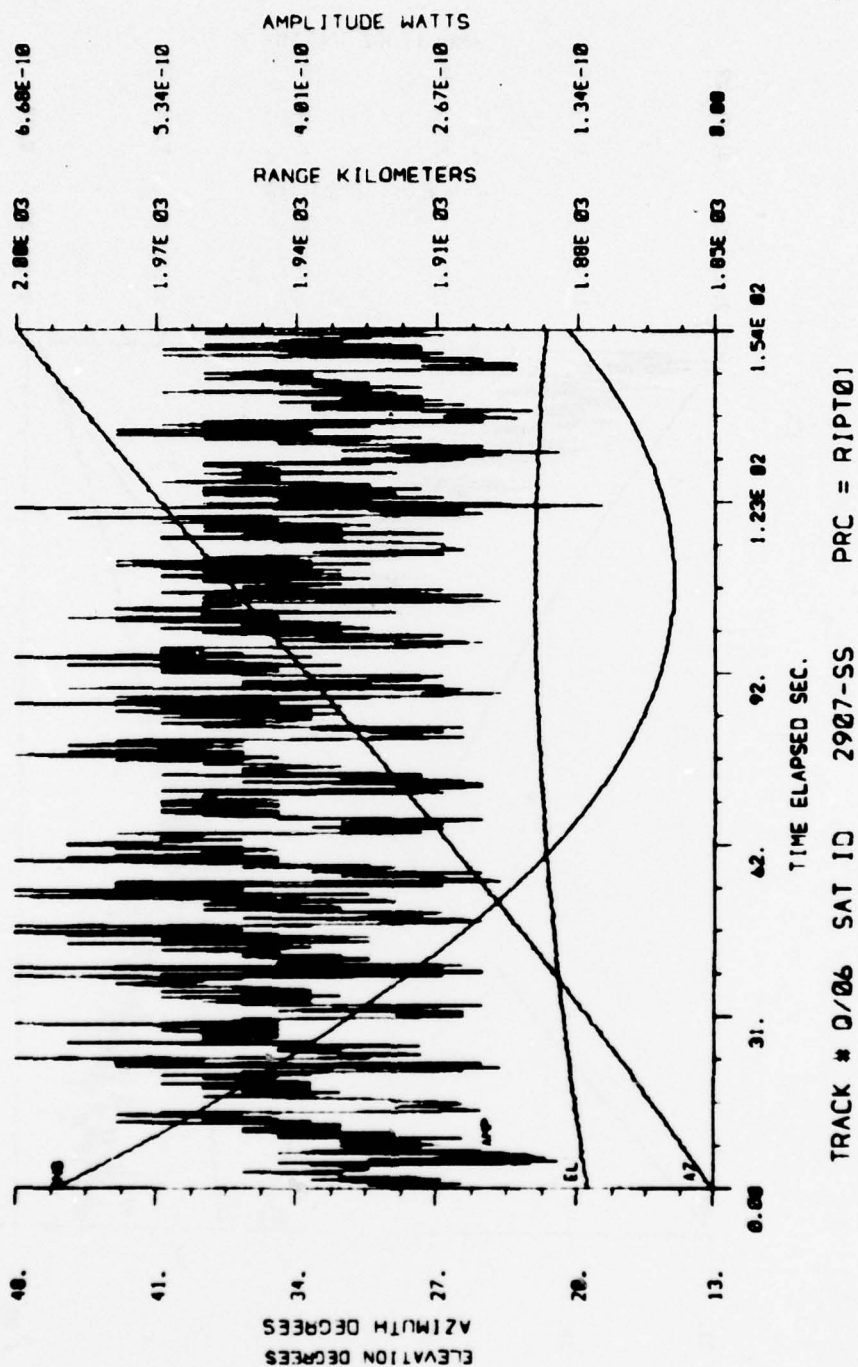


Figure A-32

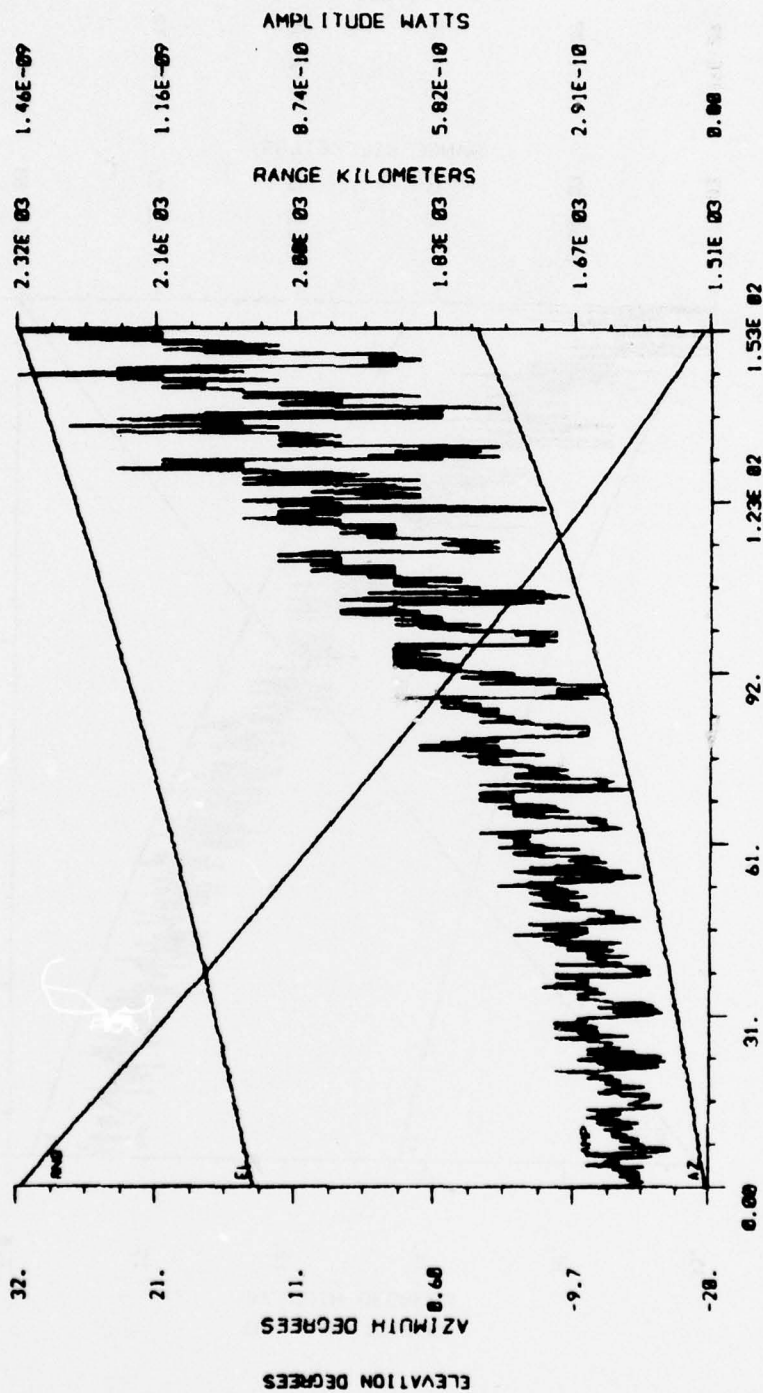
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 1
 TIME: FROM 106/ 2/34/ 1
 TO 106/ 2/36/34



TRACK # 0/06 SAT ID 2907-SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-33

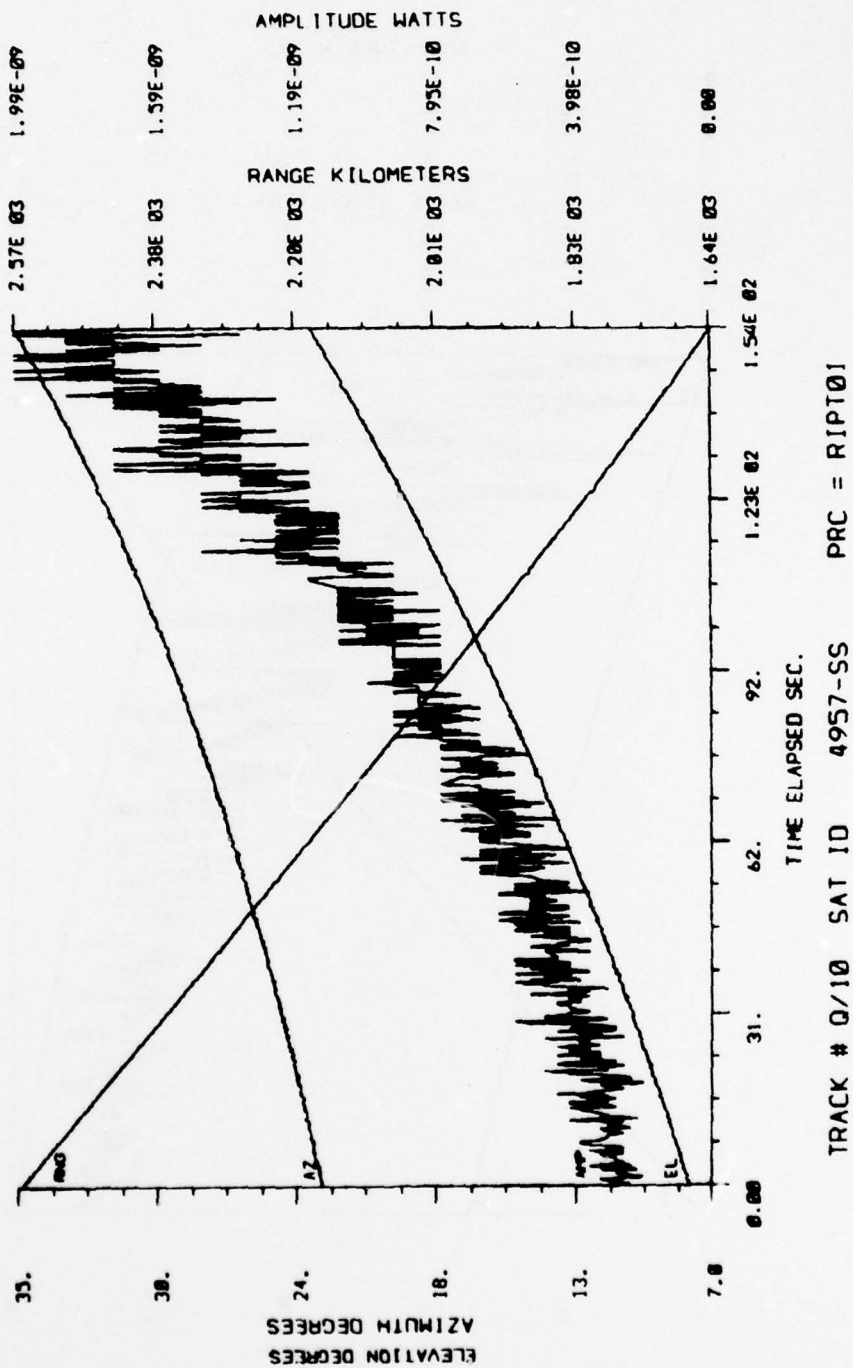
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 1
 TIME: FROM 110/ 2/48/ 3
 TO 110/ 2/50/36



TRACK # 0/08 SAT ID 2909-SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-34

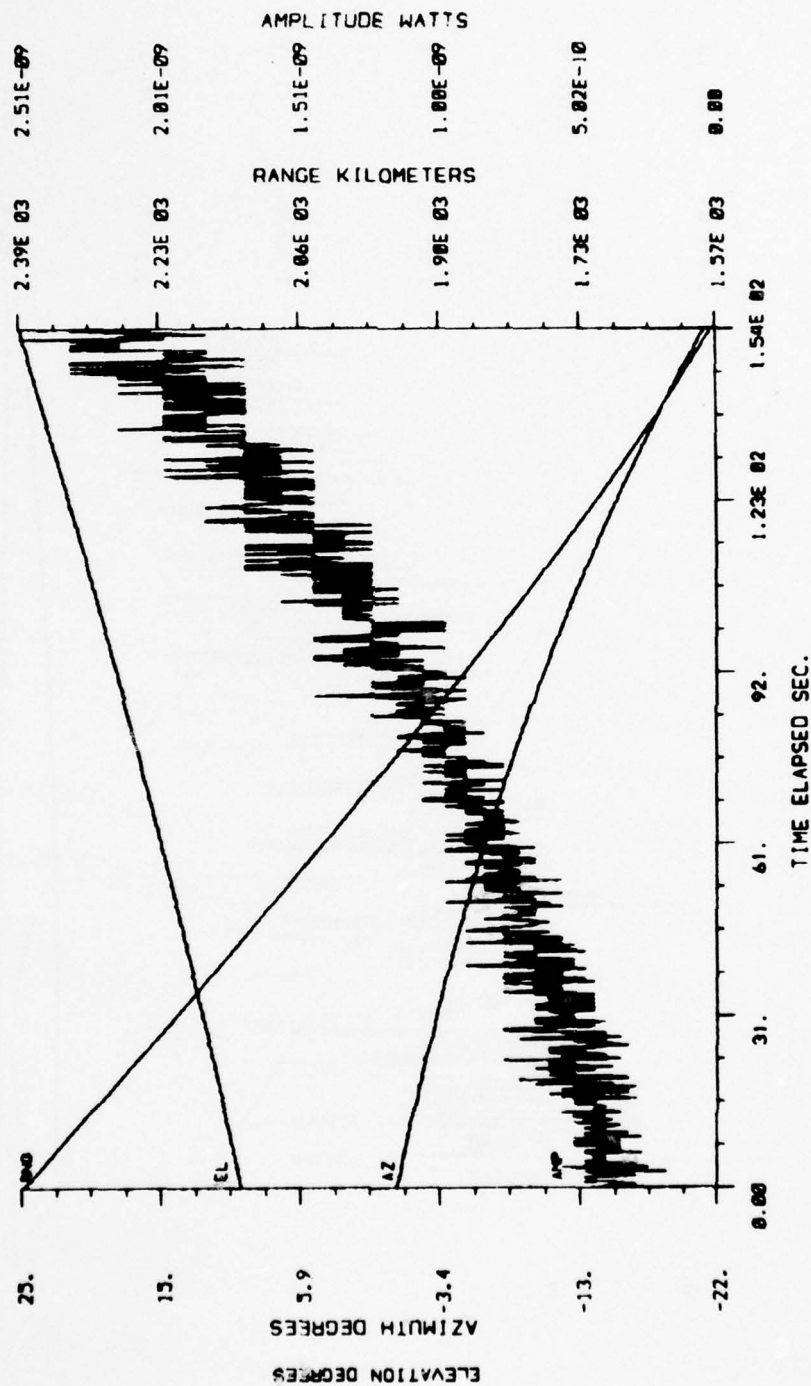
BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1
 TIME: FROM 112/ 4/ 8/12
 TO 112/ 4/10/45



TRACK # 0/10 SAT ID 4957-SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-35

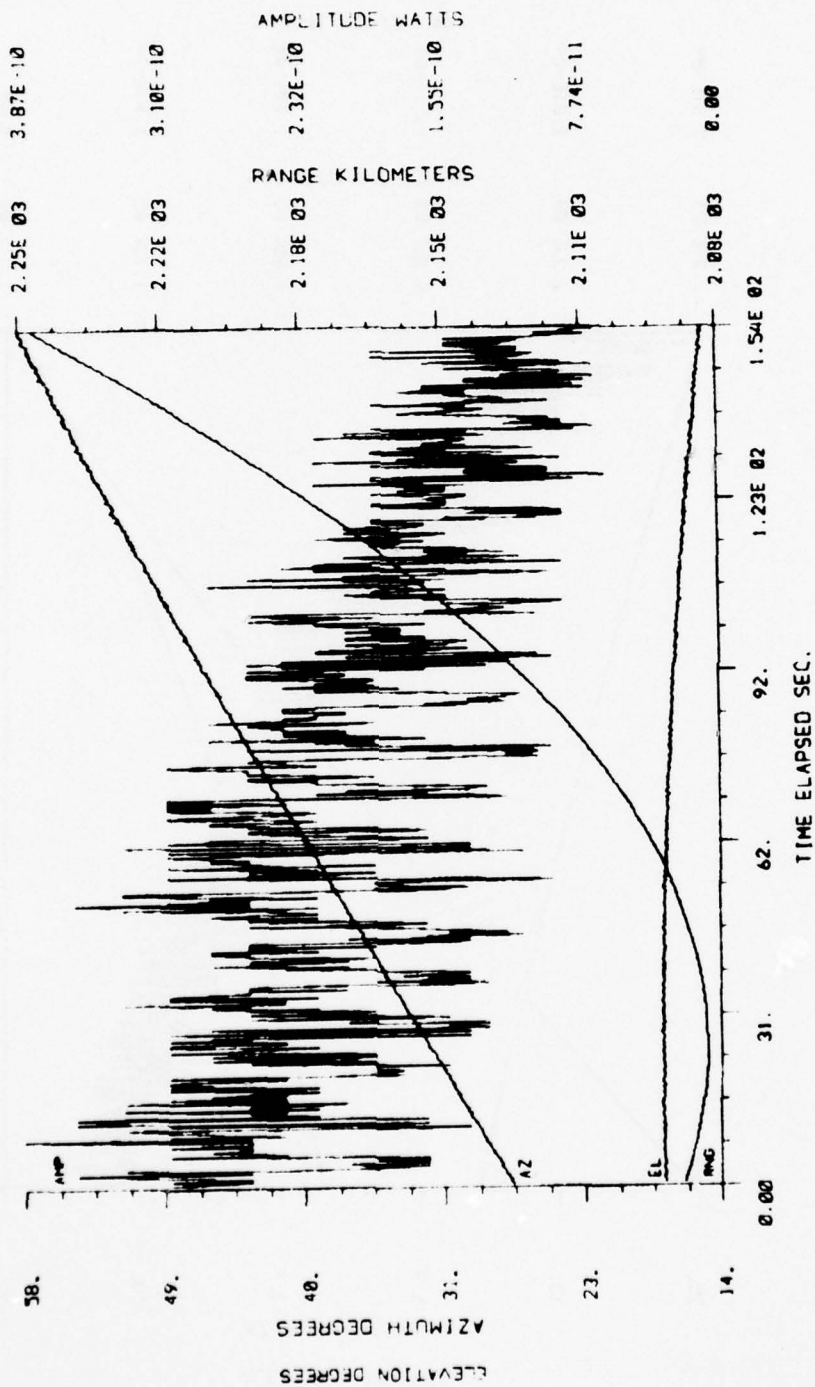
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 1
 TIME: FROM 119/ 5/36/24
 TO 119/ 5/38/57



TRACK # 0/13 SAT ID 4957-SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-36

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1
 TIME: FROM 111/ 1/ 9/59
 TO 111/ 1/12/33

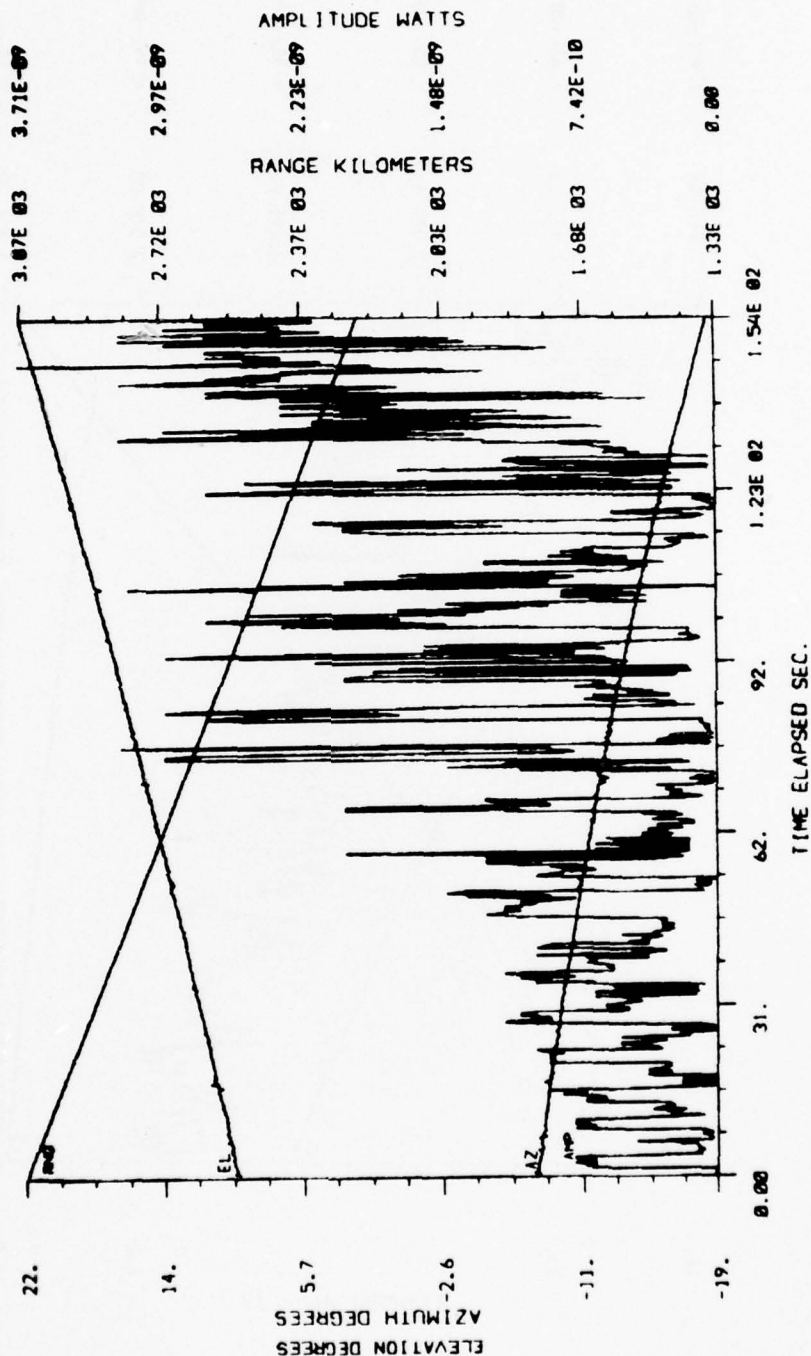


TRACK # 0/20 SAT ID 2909-SS PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-37

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 best available copy.

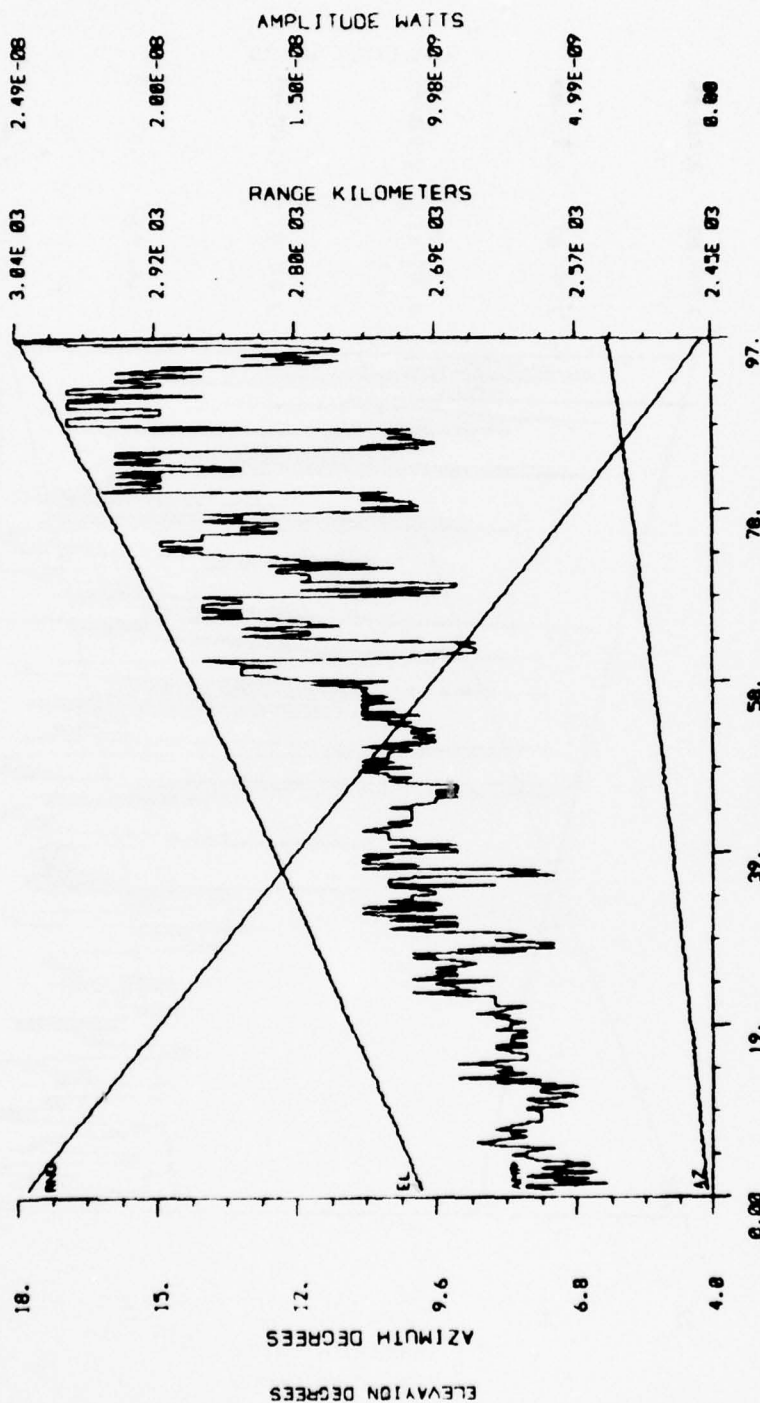
BEAM: CENTER
 SCANS: 1
 TIME: FROM 82/15/26/22
 TO 82/15/28/56



TRACK # 0/23 SAT ID 6909-TP PRC = RIPT05

Figure A-38

BEAM: CENTER
 SCAN: 1
 TIME: FROM 83/14/19/24
 TO 83/14/21/58



TRACK # 0/25 SAT ID 6909-TP PRC = RIPT01

Figure A-39